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THE TALMUD The Gemara asks: What is Hanukkah, and why are lights kindled on Hanukkah? The Gemara answers: The Sages taught in Megillat Ta'anit: On the twenty-fifth of Kislev, the days of Hanukkah are eight. One may not eulogize on them and one may not fast on them. What is the reason? When the Greeks entered the Sanctuary they defiled all the oils that were in the Sanctuary by touching them. And when the Hasmonean monarchy overcame them and emerged victorious over them, they searched and found only one cruse of oil that was placed with
the seal of the High Priest, undisturbed by the Greeks. And there was sufficient oil there to light the candelabrum for only one day. A miracle occurred and they lit the candelabrum from it eight days. The next year the Sages instituted those days and made them holidays with recitation of hallel and special thanksgiving in prayer and blessings. FIRST BOOK OF THE MACCABEES And it happened, after that Alexander son of Philip, the Macedonian, who came out of the land of Chettim, had smitten Darius king of the Persians and Medes, that he reigned in his ste ad, the first over Greece, And made many wars, and won many strong holds, and slew the kings of the earth, and took spoils of many nations, insomuch that the earth was quiet before him; whereupon he was exalted and his heart was lifted up. And he gathered a mighty strong host and ruled over countries, and nations, and kings, who became tributaries unto him. And after these things he fell sick, and perceived that he should die. Wherefore he called his servants, such as were honourable, and had been brought up with him from his youth, and parted his kingdom among them, while he was yet alive. So Alexander reigned twelves years, and then died. And his servants bare rule every one in his place. And after his death they all put crowns upon themselves; so did their sons after them many
d up. And he gathered a mighty strong host and ruled over countries, and haltons, and kings, who became tributaries unto him. And after these things he fell sick, and perceived that he should die. Wherefore he called his servants, such as were honourable, and had been brought up with him from his youth, and parted his kingdom among them, while he was yet altive. So Alexander reigned twelves years, and then died. And his servants bare rule every one in his place. And after his death they all put crowns upon themselves; so did their sons after them many years; and evils were multiplied in the earth. And made themselves uncircumsted and the was yet altive, and alter his death much sorrow. So this device pleased them well. Then certain of the kingdom and a great many, and made war against Plotemee king of legyte that Plotemee was a fraid of him, and fled; and many were wounded to death. Thus they got the strong clites in the land of Egypt and he took the spoils thereof. And after that Antiochus had smither Egypt, he returned again in the hundred forty and third year, and went up against Israel and Jerusalem with a great multitude. And entered proudly into the sanctuary, and made war against Plotemee king of gold, and the veil, and the crown, and the gold en altar, and the candelstick of light, and all the vessels thereof. And after that Antiochus had smither Egypt, he returned again in the hundred forty and third year, and went up against Israel and Jerusalem vita great multitude. And entered proudly into the sanctuary, and took way the golden altar, and the candelstick of light, and all the vessels thereof. And after that were before the temple, all which he pulled off. He took also the silver and the gold, and the precious vessels: also he took the hidden reasures which he foun do not all the precious vessels also he took the hidden reasures which he foun do not all the precious vessels also he took the hidden reasures which he foun do not all the precious vessels also he took allow the control of the precious ve
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          covenant: so then they died. And there was very great wrath upon Israel. In those days arose Mat
lled Thassi: Judas, who was called Maccabeus: Eleazar, called Avaran: and Jonathan, whos
d confirmed in themselves not to eat any unclean thing. Wherefore the rather to die, that they might not be defiled with meats, and that they might not profane the holy
tathias the son of John, the son of Simeon, a priest of the sons of Joarib, from Jerusalem, and dwelt in Modin. And he had five sons, Joannan, called Caddis: Simon; ca
e surname was Apphus. And when he saw the blasphemies that were committed in Juda and Jerusalem, He said, Woe is me! wherefore was I born to see this mis
the enemy, and the sanctuary into the hand of strangers? Her temple is become as a man without glory. Her glorious vessels are carried away into captivity, her
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       my people, and of the holy city, and to dwell there, when it was delivered into the hand o are slain in the streets, her young men with the sword of the enemy. What nation hat
the enemy, and the sanctuary into the hand of strangers? Her temple is become as a man without glory. Her glorious vessels are carried away into captivity, her hand a part in her kingdom and gotten of her spoils? All her ornaments are taken away: of a free woman she is become a bondslave. And, behold, our sanct not therefore shall we live any longer? Then Mattathias and his sons rent their clothes, and put on sackcloth, and mourned very sore. In the mean while the king' d when many of Israel came unto them, Mattathias also and his sons came together. Then answered the king's officers, and said to Mattathias on this wise, Tho brethren: Now therefore come thou first, and fulfil the king's commandment, like as all the heathen have done, yea, and the men of Juda also, and such as rem nd thou and thy children shall be honoured with silver and gold, and many rewards. Then Mattathias answered and spake with a loud voice, Though all the nat igion of their fathers, and give consent to his commandments: Yet will I and my sons and my brethren walk in the covenant of our fathers. God forbid that we go from our religion, either on the right hand, or the left. Now when he had left speaking these words, there came one of the Jews in the sight of all to sacrific when Mattathias saw, he was inflamed with zeal, and his reins trembled, neither could he forbear to shew his anger according to judgment: wherefore he ran rifice, he killed at that time, and the altar he pulled down. Thus dealt he zealously for the law of God like as Phinees did unto Zambri the son of Salom. And his real wand many the altar he pulled down. Thus dealt he zealously for the mountains, and left all that ever they had in the city. Then many the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              our beauty and our glory, is laid waste, and the Gentiles have profaned it. To what e
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         uary, even
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                s officers, such as compelled the people to revolt, came into the city Modin, to make them sacrifice. An u art a ruler, and an honourable and great man in this city, and strengthened with sons and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ain at Jerusalem: so shalt thou and thy house be in the number of the king's friends,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ions that are under the king's dominion obey him, and fall away every one from the re
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         should forsake the law and the ordinances. We will not hearken to the king's words, to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        e on the altar which was at Modin, according to the king's commandment. Which thing
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        , and slew him upon the altar. Also the king's commissioner, who compelled men to sa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      Mattathias cried throughout the city with a loud voice, saying, Whosoever is zealous of th
e law, and maintaineth the covenant, let him follow me. So he and his sons fled into the mountains, and left all that ever they had in the city. Then many tha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     t sought after justice and judgment went down into the wilderness, to dwell there: Both the
ey, and their children, and their wives; and their cattle; because afflictions increased sore upon them. Now when it was told the king's servants, and the ho
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     st that was at Jerusalem, in the city of David, that certain men, who had broken the king's
commandment, were gone down into the secret places in the wilderness, They pursued after them a great number, and having overtaken them, they camp
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ed against them, and made war against them on the sabbath day. And they said unto them
Let that which ye have done hitherto suffice; come forth, and do according to the commandment of the king, and ye shall live. But they said, we will not
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  come forth, neither will we do the king's commandment, to profane the sabbath day. So the
n they gave them the battle with all speed. Howbeit they answered them not, neither cast they a stone at them, nor stopped the places where they lay hid
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ; But said, Let us die all in our innocency: heaven and earth will testify for us, that ye put us
to death wrongfully. So they rose up against them in battle on the sabbath, and they slew them, with their wives and children and their cattle, to the num rned for them right sore. And one of them said to another, If we all do as our brethren have done, and fight not for our liv
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                ber of a thousand people. Now when Mattathias and his friends understood hereof, they mou
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               nd laws against the heathen, they will now quickly root us out of the earth. At that time there
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ore they decreed, saying, Whosoever shall come to make battle with us on the sabbath day, we will fight agains
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              m; neither will we die all, as our brethren that were murdered im the secret places. Then came
there unto him a company of Assideans who were mighty men of Israel, even all such as were voluntari
ere a stay unto them. So they joined their forces, and smote sinful men in their anger, and wicked
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            evoted unto the law. Also all they that fled for persecution joined themselves unto them, and we n in their wrath: but the rest fled to the heathen for succour. Then Mattathias and his friends we
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nt round about, and pulled down the altars: And what children soever they found within the
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men, and the work prospered in their hand. So they recovered the law out of the hand
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he time drew near that Mattathias should die, he said unto his sons, Now hath pri
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re, my sons, be ye zealous for the law, and give your lives for the covenant o
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 honour and an everlasting name. Was not Abraham found faithful in te
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e congr
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ous and fervent obtained the covenant of an everlasting priesthood. Jesus for fulfill
 the commandment and was made lord of Egypt. Phinees our father in
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 tion received the heritage of the land. David for being merciful possessed the thr p into heaven. Ananias, Azarias, and Misael, by believing were saved out of the
ng the word was made a judge in Israel. Caleb for bearing witness before th
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one of an everlasting kingdom. Elias for being zealous and fervent f
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 flame. Daniel for his innocency was delivered from the mouth of lio
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        oughout all ages, that none that put their trust in him shall be overcome. Fea
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            day he shall be lifted up and to morrow he shall not be found, because he
 not then the words of a sinful man: for his glory shall be dung an
                                                                                                                  d worm
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ye my sons, be valiant and shew yourselves men in the behalf of the law
 is returned into his dust, and his thought is come to nothing. Whe
 for by it shall ye obtain glory. And behold, I know that your broth
                                                                                                                              er Simo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  n is a man of counsel, give ear unto him alway: he shall be a father un
to you. As for Judas Maccabeus, he hath been mighty and strong
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     rom his youth up: let him be your captain, and fight the battle of the
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 people. Take also unto you all those that observe the law, and a
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        e the wrong of your people. Recompense fully the heathen, and t
ake heed to the commandments of the law. So he blessed them,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           as gathered to his fathers. And he died in the hundred forty and
sixth year, and his sons buried him in the sepulchres of his fat
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             Modin, and all Israel made great lamentation for him. Then his
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tecting
wicked,
son Judas, called Maccabeus, rose up in his stead. And all his
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nd they fought with cheerfulness the battle of Israel. So he gat
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d girt his warlike harness about him, and he made battles, pro
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      the host with his sword. In his acts he was like a lion, a
nd like a lion's whelp roaring for his prey. For He pursued the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          and sought them out, and burnt up those that vexed
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cob gla
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ived un
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his people. Wherefore the wicked shrunk for fear of him, and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          orkers of iniquity were troubled, because salvation p
rospered in his hand. He grieved also many kings, and mad
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              t of them, and turning away wrath from Israel: So to him such as were ready to perish. Then Apol
r. Moreover he went through the cities of Juda, destroying t
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that he was renowned unto the utmost part of the earth, an
                                                                                                            d he rece
onius gathered the Gentiles together, and a great host out
                                                                                                            of Samaria
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   t against Israel. Which thing when Judas perce
ived, he went forth to meet him, and so he smote him, an
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Judas took their spoils, and Apollonius' sword also, and
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the army of Syria, heard say that Judas had gathered un
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ompany of the faithful to go out with him to
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war; He said, I will get me a name and honour in the kin
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d the
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despise the king's commandment. So he made him rea
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              on, Judas went forth to meet him with a small company: Who, whe
f the children of Israel. And when he came near to the
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         n they saw the host coming to meet them,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       so strong, seeing we are ready to faint wit y to be shut up in the hands of a few; and wi
said unto Judas, How shall we be able, being so few, t
                                                                                                                o fight agai
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     at a multitude and
h fasting all this day? Unto whom Judas answered, It
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th the God of heaven it is all one, to deliver with a gre
                                                                                                                                             ultitude, or a s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      mall company: For the victory of battle stand
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eth not in the multitude of an host; but strength com
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y to destroy us, and our wives and children, and to
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as f
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d himself will overthrow them before our face: and
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    afraid of them. Now as soon as he had left off
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speaking, he leapt suddenly upon them, and so Se
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 from the going down of Bethhoron unto the plain
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ed into the land of the Philistines. Then began the
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the nations round about them: Insomuch as his f
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w when king Antiochus heard these things, he w
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s realm, even a very strong army. He opened al
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m. Nevertheless, when he saw that the money
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d brought upon the land in taking away the law
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             me; He feared that he should not be able to b
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ear the charges any longer, nor to have such gifts t
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o give so liberally as he did before: for he had
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             ngs that were before him. Wherefore, being g
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   Persia, there to take the tributes of the cou
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              uch money. So he left Lysias, a nob
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 bring up his son Antiochus, until he cam
e king from the river Euphrates unto the bor
                                                                                                                                of Eg
                                                                                                                                                                                       ypt: And to
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s forces, and the elephants, and gave him c
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da and Jerusalem: To wit, that he should se
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remnant of Jerusalem, and to take away the
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rters, and divide their land by lot. So the kin
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city, the hundred forty and seventh year; an
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Nicanor, and Gor
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     Euphrates, he went through the high countries. Then Ly
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sias chose Ptolemee the son of Dorymenes,
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    men of the king's friends: And with them he sent forty th
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                                                                                                                                                                    e land of
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ousand footmen, and seven thousand horsem
forth with all their power, and came and pi tch
                                                                                                 ed by Emmaus in
                                                                                                                                                                the plain
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               uy the children of Israel for slaves: a power also of Syria an
them, took silver and gold very much, with ser
                                                                                                 vants, and came into
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d of the land of the Philistines joined thems elve
                                                                                                 s unto them. Now when
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               brethren saw that miseries were multiplied, and that the force
                                                                                                                                                           Judas an
es did encamp themselves in their borders: for
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                                                                                                  they knew how the king h
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y said one to another, Let us restore the deca yed
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ple and the sanctuary. Then was the congregation gathered to
                                                                                                       fortune of our people, and
                                                                                                                                                      let us fig
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gether, that they might be ready for battle, an d th
                                                                                                         at they might pray, and as
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her children that went in or out: the sanctuary
                                                                                                               was trodden down, and aliens ke
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ld; the heathen had their habitation in that place; and joy was
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aken from Jacob, and the pipe with the harp cea sed.
                                                                                                                   Wherefore the Israelites ass
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n Maspha was the place where they prayed afore
                                                                                                                       in Israel. Then they fast
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r clothes, And laid open the book of the law, wher
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and the firstfruits, and the tithes: and the Nazarite
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       hed their days. Then cried they with a loud voice toward heaven, s
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aying, What shall we do with these, and whither sha
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                                                                                                                                   carry them
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      to destroy us: what things they imagine against us, thou knowest
viness, and brought low. And lo, the heathen are ass
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How shall we be able to stand against them, except th
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after this Judas ordained captains over the people, eve
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r such as were building houses, or had betrothed wives
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  vineyards, or were fearful, those he commanded that they should retu
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rn, every man to his own house, according to the law. So t
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m yourselves, and be valiant men, and see that ye be in rea
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ed together against us to destroy us and our sanctuary: For i
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                                                                                                   t is be
our sanctuary. Nevertheless, as the will of God is in heaven, so
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        Then took Gorgias five thousand footmen, and a thousand of the best horse
                                                                                                                                                                                                          m do.
men, and removed out of the camp by night; To the end he might
                                                                                                                                                                                                   n upon the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     camp of the Jews, and smite them suddenly. And the men of the fortress were
his guides. Now when Judas heard thereof he himself removed, a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   th him, that he might smite the king's army which was at Emmaus, While as yet
                                                                                                                                                                                            aliant me
                                                                                                                                                                                                                n wi
the forces were dispersed from the camp. In the mean season came
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 camp of Judas: and when he found no man there, he sought them in the mountain
                                                                                                                       Gorgias b
                                                                                                                                                                                                                  the
s: for said he, These fellows flee from us But as soon as it was day, Ju
                                                                                                                               das shewed himself in the plain with th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             thousand men, who revertheless had neither armour nor swords to their minds. An
                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ree
d they saw the camp of the heathen, that it was strong and well harnesse
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          nd about with horsemen; and these were expert of war. Then said Judas to the men th
                                                                                                                                              d, and compassed
                                                                                                                                                                                                                     rou
at were with him, Fear ye not their multitude, neither be ye afraid of their ass
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      ault
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        Remember how our fathers were delivered in the Red sea, when Pharaoh pursued then
with an army. Now therefore let us cry unto heaven, if peradventure the Lord
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  have mercy upon us, and remember the covenant of our fathers, and destroy this host befo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                       will
re our face this day: That so all the heathen may know that there is one who deliv
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    srael. Then the strangers lifted up their eyes, and saw them coming over agains
                                                                                                                                                                                                                         eret
t them. Wherefore they went out of the camp to battle; but they that were with Judas
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ded their trumpets. So they joined battle, and the heathen being discomfited fled into the plain. H
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owbeit all the hindmost of them were slain with the sword: for they pursued them unto G
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 ns of Idumea, and Azotus, and Jamnia, so that there were slain of them upon a th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                             azera
ee thousand men. This done, Judas returned again with his host from pursuing them, And s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 aid to t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  of the spoil inasmuch as there is a battle before us, And Gorgias and his host a
e here by us in the mountain: but stand ye now against our enemies, and overcome them, and af
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      ter this ye may boldly take the spoils. As Judas was yet speaking these words, there appeared a part of them looking out
of the mountain: Who when they perceived that the Jews had put their host to flight and were burning
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            tents; for the smoke that was seen declared what was done: When therefore they perceived these things,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             the land of strangers. Then Judas returned to spoil the tents, where they got much gold, and silver, and blue sid the Lord in heaven: because it is good, because his mercy endureth forever. Thus Israel had a great deliverance that
hey were sore afraid, and seeing also the host of Judas in the plain ready to fight, They fled every one into
lk, and purple of the sea, and great riches. After this they went home, and sung a song of thanksgiving, and praise
t day. Now all the strangers that had escaped came and told Lysias what had happened: Who, when he heard thereof, was con
                                                                                                                                                                                                                              founded and discouraged, because neither such things as he would were done unto Israel, nor such things as the king comman
ded him were come to pass. The next year therefore following Lysias gathered together threescore thousand choice men of foot, and five thousand choice men of five thousand choice men o
ousand men. And when he saw that mighty army, he prayed and said, Blessed art thou, O Saviour of Israel, who didst quell the violence of the mighty man by the hand of thy servant David, and gavest the host of strangers into the hands of Jonathan the son of Saul, and his armourb
earer; Shut up this army in the hand of thy people Israel, and let them be confounded in their power and horsemen: Make them to be of no courage, and cause the boldness of their strength to fall away, and let them quake at their destruction: Cast them down with the sword of them
that love thee, and let all those that know thy name praise thee with thanksgiving. So they joined battle; and there were slain of the host of Lysias about five thousand men, even before them were they slain. Now when Lysias saw his army put to flight, and the manliness of Judas' so ldiers, and how they were ready either to live or die valiantly, he went into Antiochia, and gathered together a company of strangers, and having made his army greater than it was, he purposed to come again into Judea. Then said Judas and his brethren, Behold, our enemies are discomfited: let us go up to cleanse and dedicate the sanctuary. Upon this all the host assembled themselves together, and the altar profaced, and the gates burned up, and shrubs growing in the courts as in a f
orest, or in one of the mountains, yea, and the priests' chambers pulled down; They rent their clothes, and made great lamentation, and cast ashes upon their faces, and blew an alarm with the trumpets, and cried toward heaven. The
en Judas appointed certain men to fight against those that were in the fortress, until he had cleansed the sanctuary. So he chose priests of blameless conversation, such as had pleasure in the law: Who cleansed the sanctuary, and bare out the defiled stones into an unclean place. And when as they consulted what to do with the altar of burnt offerings, which was profaned; They thought it best to pull it down, lest it should be a reproach to them, because the heathen had defiled it: wherefore they pulled it down, And laid up the stones in the mountain of the teams.
mple in a convenient place, until there should come a prophet to shew what should be done with them. Then they took whole stones according to the former; And made up the sanctuary, and the things that were within the temple, and hallo
wed the courts. They made also new holy vessels, and into the temple they brought the candlestick, and the altar they burned incense, and the lamps that were upon the candlestick they lighted, that they might give
e light in the temple. Furthermore they set the loaves upon the table, and spread out the veils, and finished all the works which they had begun to make. Now on the five and twentieth day of the ninth month, which is called the month Casleu, in the hundred forty and eighth year, the
y rose up betimes in the morning, And offered sacrifice according to the law upon the new altar of burnt offerings, which they had made. Look, at what time and what day the heathen had profaned it, even in that was it dedicated with songs, and citherns, and harps, and cymbals. The nall the people fell upon their faces, worshipping and praising the God of heaven, who had given them good success. And so they kept the dedication of the altar eight days and offered burnt offerings with gladness, and sacrifice of deliverance and praise. They deck
ed also the forefront of the temple with crowns of gold, and with shields; and the gates and the chambers they renewed, and hanged doors upon them. Thus was there very great gladness among the people, for that the reproach of the heathen was put away. Moreover Judas and his brethren with the whole congregation of Israel ordained, that the days of the dedication of the altar should be kept in their season from year to year by the space of eight days, from the five and twentieth day of the month Casleu, with mirth and gladness. At that time also they build ed up the mount Sion with high walls and strong towers round about, lest the Gentiles should come and tread it down as they had done before. And they set there a garrison to keep it, and fortified Bethsura to preserve it; that the people might have a defence against Idumea. Now we
hen the nations round about heard that the altar was built and the sanctuary renewed as before, it displeased them very much. Wherefore they thought to destroy the generation of Jacob that was among them, and thereupon they began to slay and destroy the people. Then Judas fo
ught against the children of Esau in Idumea at Arabattine, because they besieged Gael: and he gave them a great overthrow, and abated their courage, and took their spoils. Also he remembered the injury of the children of Bean, who had been a snare and an offence unto the people
, in that they lay in wait for them in the ways. He shut them up therefore in the towers of that place with fire, and all that were therein. Afterward he passed over to the children of Ammon, where he found a mighty power, and much people, with Timotheus their captain. So he fought many battles with them, till at length they were discomfited before him; and he smote them. And when he had taken Jazar, with the towns belonging thereto, he returned into Judea. Then the heathen tha
t were at Galaad assembled themselves together against the Israelites that were in their quarters, to destroy them; but they fled to the fortress of Dathema. And sent letters unto Judas and his brethren, The heathen that are round about us are assembled together against us to destroy
oy us: And they are preparing to come and take the fortress whereunto we are fled, Timotheus being captain of their hands, for many of us are slain: Yea, all our brethren that were in the places of Tobie are put to death: their wive
s and their children also they have carried away captives, and borne away their stuff; and they have destroyed there about a thousand men. While these letters were yet reading, behold, there came other messengers from Galilee with their clothes rent, who reported on this wise, An d said, They of Ptolemais, and of Tyrus, and Sidon, and all Galilee of the Gentiles, are assembled together against us to consume us. Now when Judas and the people heard these words, there assembled a great congregation together, to consult what they should do for their brethren, that were in trouble, and assaulted of them. Then said Judas unto Simon his brother, Choose thee out men, and go and deliver thy brethren that are in Galilee, for I and Jonathan my brother will go into the country of Galaad. So he left Joseph the son of Zacharias, and Azarias, ca
ptains of the people, with the remnant of the host in Judea to keep it. Unto whom he gave commandment, saying, Take ye the charge of this people, and see that ye make not war against the heathen until the time that we come again. Now unto Simon were given three thousand men
to go into Galilee, and unto Judas eight thousand men for the country of Galaad. Then went Simon into Galilee, where he fought many battles with the heathen, so that the heathen were discomfited by him. And he pursued them unto the gate of Ptolemais; and there were slain of the heathen about three thousand men, whose spoils he took. And those that were in Galilee, and in Arbattis, with their wives and their children, and all that they had, took he away with him, and brought them into Judea with great joy. Judas Maccabeus also and his brother Jonathan went over Jordan, and travelled three days' journey in the wilderness, Where they met with the Nabathites, who came unto them in a peaceable manner, and told them every thing that had happened to their brethren in the land of Galaad: And how that many of them were shut up in Bo
sora, and Bosor, and Alema, Casphor, Maked, and Carnaim; all these cities are strong and great: And that against to morrow they had appointed to bring their host against the forts, and to take them, and to
destroy them all in one day. Hereupon Judas and his host turned suddenly by the way of the wilderness unto Bosora; and when he had won the city, he slew all the males with the edge of the sword, and took all their spoils, and burned the city with fire, From whence he removed by night, and went till he came to the fortress. And betimes in the morning they looked up, and, there was an innumerable people bearing ladders and other engines of war, to take the fortress: for they assaulted them. When Judas therefore saw that the battle was begun, and the
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