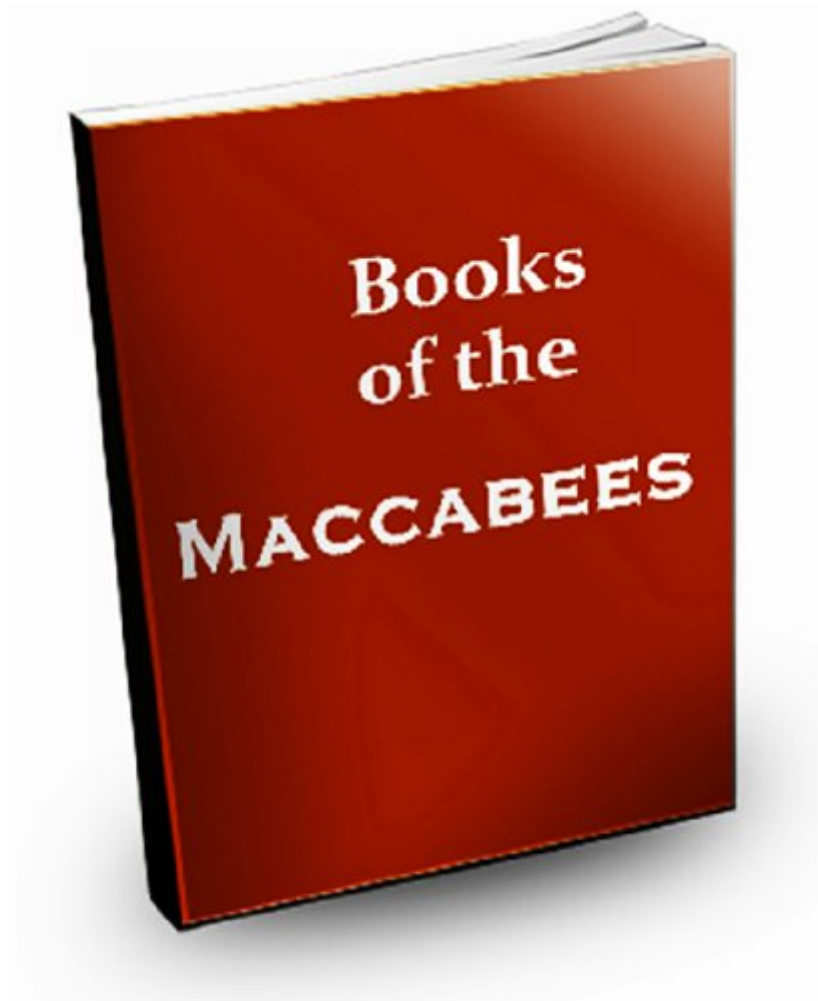




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The Books Of The Maccabees: Books 1 & 2



Synopsis

The Books of the Maccabees chronicle key historical events in ancient Judaism during the 2nd century before the common era. Active table of contents.

Book Information

File Size: 353 KB

Print Length: 147 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: January 12, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00B0P2CO6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #108,223 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #20

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Religion > Judaism #26 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Religion > Christianity > Biblical History & Culture > Biblical History & Culture #64 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > History & Culture

Customer Reviews

Not all books composed by Jews before the beginning of the Common Era were canonized; that is, accepted as part of the Tanach, the Hebrew name for the Hebrew Bible. When the Bible was translated into Greek, the language most spoken at the time, some of these books that were not included in the Tanach were inserted in the translation. Among about a dozen others, were two of the four books called Books of the Maccabees. The original English translation of the Bible, the King James Version of 1611 included them. But many Protestants objected and they were removed. They are still in the Roman Catholic Bibles. This is a good translation of these two books. The first, written about the time that the events occurred, tells about the wars Jews fought against the Syrian Greeks. After winning many battles, the Jews restored the defiled temple and celebrated for eight days. Jews still celebrate eight days with a holiday today called Chanukah, meaning dedication and referring to the rededication of the Temple. Significantly, the well-known tale of a miracle of a fire

built from oil that could only last one day but lasted eight days is not in the book. This legend was apparently composed by the rabbis at a later period who wanted to give the military event a religious content. The second book of Maccabees is not a parallel account. It narrates events from 175 to 160 before the Common Era and contains the rather famous stories of the martyrdom of Eleazar and of the murder of the seven youths who gave their lives out of love of God.

As background to this book, the Bible is silent on the approximately 400 years separating the Old and New Testaments. This was a period of intense persecution as Syria, the "Northern kingdom" and Egypt, the "Southern kingdom" swept back and forth over Israel. This was the time of Antiochus Epiphanes, an evil king who is one (of two) "Little Horns" of the Book of Daniel. The other little horn is Antichrist. The Books of the Maccabees documents this period and is important for gaining an understanding of the intense suffering, struggles and persecution of the Jews. This important book also documents the courage of Judas Maccabeus and his brothers Jonathan and Simon in fighting against their oppressors. The book is not an easy read, but is excellent for insight to the history of this period. It will be helpful to both Christians and Jews and I highly recommend you at least scan both Books!

I gave it five stars. While I have studied the Bible extensively I knew that there were other books pertaining to Jewish history that had been left out of the Bible. These are parts that have been left out. I found them informative and I was glad to have the chance to read some of the history that I had been searching for for quite some time. While it is written in language more equal to the Septuagint the only part I had trouble with is the names. It takes a little bit of searching to find out what name belongs to whom but it certainly is informative and well worth having especially for people who love to study the Bible or Jewish history.

Nice wording of the books of the Maccabees from the Scripture. I had previously heard verses that had been taken from the book, but had not read it. Anyone who reads scripture, would find this interesting.

This book covers the period of time from 175 BC to 135 B.C. in Jewish history. I found it fascinating as it reveals many of the wars that the Jews went through that aren't covered in the Bible, and the ways that God fought, literally, on their behalf, after their cries of repentance and pleas to God for deliverance. It was a real eye opener for me and I believe it will be the same for all of those that

read this book.

Loved this book. It was easy to read, understand and follows biblical history. Recommended for anyone who enjoys biblical stories and history.L. Fenstermacher

A Jewish family (the Maccabees) whose only intention was to try and and reclaim the Temple in Jerusalem. This was no easy task. They were determined and trusted in Jehovah to conquer the enemies they dealt with. Fascinating what God will do for you when you trust in Him. Amen

Very important for every believer to read this book as part of their study. I recommend to also include this book during the feast of Hanukkah.

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