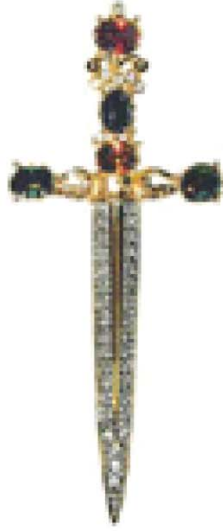


Glad Tidings The Mordecai Issue



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Peace Brothers and Sisters! This issue is a special edition named after one of our forefathers that was glorified by the most High. In the time of trouble his faith did not waiver but remained strong in the salvation of our Lord. **Psalms 37:39** *“But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.”* We all need to have such faith not just when things are going good for us, but in the time of tribulation. Remembering that the Heavenly Father deals with us as with sons and daughters. **Hebrews 12:5** *“And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:”* **Verse 6:** *“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.”* **Verse 7:** *“If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?”* **Verse 8:** *“But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.”* **Verse 9:** *“Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?”* **Verse 10:** *“For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.”* **Verse 11:** *“Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”*

The exhortation Paul gave us in the book of Hebrews helps us understand a few things about the love of the Father. Namely that he proves us to see whether we love him; and if we endure such tribulation we would learn the fruits of righteousness. **Psalms 119:71** *“It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.”* Also your faith would increase because you would become purged into understanding your faults. **Psalms 119:67** *“Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.”* Who would have thought that the perils we go through in this life, bring such great gifts as faith, hope, experience. Yet many faint because of their lack of faith and patience. **Matthew 13:20** *“But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;”* **Verse 21:** *“Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.”*

With such warning that Christ has given us we must examine ourselves whether we are those of the stony places with no root. For we must endure much hardships and tribulation in this present world to become stronger in the faith as our forefather Mordecai.

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Important Dates:

- Feb 8th at even the 12th New Moon
- Feb 20th at sundown the Feast of Destruction of Nicanor
- Feb 21st - 23rd at evening is the Feast of Purim
- March 9th at evening the 13th New Moon

February 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6		8 12 th New Moon	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Feast Destruction of Nicanor	21 At even Nicanor ends & begins Purim	22 2 nd Day of Purim	23 Purim Ends at even	24	25	26
27	28					

March 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 13 th New Moon	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

The Persian Captivity

Hopefully this helps you understand better the rule of the *Medes & Persians* over our people Israel. It is written in chronological order of the Kings.

1. Astyages
2. Darius the Mede & Cyrus
3. Artaxerxes
4. Darius the Persian
5. Artaxerxes
6. Darius



King Darius Seated
on his Throne

- Astyages (**Bel & the Dragon 1:1**) was the Grandfather of Cyrus the great, and known to be the Assuerus in **Tobit 14:15**, which could be proven because of the reference Daniel made in **Daniel 9:1** “*In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans,*” Since Astyages was a Mede & predecessor of Darius and he ruled during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar.
- Darius the Mede (**Daniel 5:31, 6:1-28, 9:1, 11:1**) took down the Babylonians with the help of Cyrus the Great. He didn’t rule to long for he was 62 years old when he took the kingdom from Belshazzar. This was done according to the prophecy Daniel was shown during the reign of Belshazzar (**Dan 8:1-27**); the Lord sent Gabriel to interpret the vision and he stated “*The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.*” The king of Media would be Darius and the king of Persia would be Cyrus. Cyrus became “the Great” when he united both kingdoms. **Daniel 8:3** “*Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other; and the higher came up last.*” The ram represents the Media and Persian empire as stated before but notice it states one horn was higher than the other and the higher horn came up last. All praises to the Most High and Christ for his sure word for so it was that Cyrus became greater than Darius the Mede. Some become confused when they read **Dan 1:27** “*And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.*” This is just letting us know that Daniel lived upto the kingdom of Cyrus. It is not making any reference of Cyrus taking the realm of Babylon. So called scholars like to say that Cyrus and Darius are the same but when you read **Daniels chapter 6** and the book of **Bel & the Dragon** it shows us that Daniel was cast into the lion’s den twice for different reason and by different kings. **Dan 6:28** “*So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.*” This verse proves that both kings ruled seperately. Cyrus who the most High spoke of by the prophet Isaiah over a hundred years before he was even born to fulfilled the will of the Lord as stated in **Isaiah 44:26-28, 45:1-4** and **Ezra 1:1-11**. Note that the book of Daniels is not written in Chronological order and it starts from the rule of the Babylonians and Ends with Cyrus the Great. During Cyrus Sheshbazzar was the governor, Joshua the son of Josedech was the High Priest and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel ministered as well.
- After Cyrus came Artaxerxes who prevented Israel from building the temple due to the false report of the heathen. **Ezra chapter 4** and **1 Esdras 2:16-30**. Note that Ezra and Esdras is the same person (**Ezra 7:1-6, 1 Esdras 8:1-3**).
- In the second year of Darius began the building of the temple again (**1 Esdras 2:30**). Due to the wise sentence that Zorobabel

The Persian Captivity

(1 Esdras chapter 4) proclaimed to the king. Darius granted them permission to build the temple; according to the oath he made which Zerubbabel reminded him of. Israel became slothful to the building of the temple and said "The time is not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built." This took place "In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month" (**Haggai 1:1-2**). After the prophesying of Haggai & Zechariah they started to build again "In the four and twentieth day of the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king." (**Haggai 1:15**). After this the nations tried to stop the building of the temple again but did not prevail; **Ezra 5:5** "But the eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews, that they could not cause them to cease, till the matter came to Darius: and then they returned answer by letter concerning this matter." Darius searched the matter and decreed that the temple should be built according to the writing he found of Cyrus. By this time Zerubbabel was the governor who the Lord sent message by the mouth of Zechariah saying "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you." (**Zechariah 4:9**) Just like the Lord told Zerubbabel the temple was finish by his hands. (**Ezra 6:14, 1 Esdras 7:5**). Note that the Lord told Zerubbabel in **Zechariah 4:6** "Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." The Lord told him that not by their might or power was the conflict that they were having with the nations going to be solved. The same with us, though we are not building a physical building we are building a nation and it is not through our own might or power.

- Artaxerxes known also as Longimanus. He gave permission to both Nehemiah and Ezra to go back into the land and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem (**Ezra 7:1-28, Ezra 9:9, Neh 2:1**); Nehemiah really took the charge of building the walls. (**Neh 2:5-18, 4:7**). The building of the walls was prophesied of by Daniel for the coming of the Messiah. **Daniel 9:25** "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times." At this time there was much marrying of strange women which is contrary to the laws. (**Neh 13:23-31, Ezra 9:1-10, 10:1-44**). By this time Nehemiah was the governor (**Neh 5:15, 12:26**). Eliashib was the High Priest since the days of Darius the Persian. (**Neh 12:22, 3:1, 13:4, v28**). Although Eliashib was the high priest Ezra took great part in the reformation of the nation of Israel. (**Neh 8:1-13, Ezra 10:1-5**). This king was the one that was married to Esther; because through him the people prospered not as the Artaxerxes before him; father of Darius. Also have in mind the prophecy of Daniel. **Daniel 11:1** "Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, even I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him. 2: And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia." Therefore we know that it was one of the two Artaxerxes because the Kingdom was going to have four kings to rule until Alexander the Great.
- Now we have Darius who was taken down by Alexander the Great according to the prophecy of Daniel. **1st Maccabees 1:1** "And it happened, after that Alexander son of Philip, the Macedonian, who came out of the land of Chetitim, had smitten Darius king of the Persians and Medes, that he reigned in his stead, the first over Greece." To learn further about the prophecy read **Daniel chapter 8** and **Daniel 11:1-2**.

Giving all Praises to the Most High and Christ for his wisdom, knowledge and understanding concerning what was and what is to come! Blessed be our God. Shalam!

Persian Coin



PURIM

Esther 9:26 "Wherefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur..." The word Purim means "lots" therefore these days are also known as the Feast of Lots. **Esther 9:24** "Because Haman...the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur, that is, the lot". This scripture makes reference to when an Agagite (a family of the Edomites, coming from the lineage of Agag king of Amalek; **1 Samuels 15:8**) named Haman cast lots on what day he would go out to destroy the Israelites. **Esther 3:7** "In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar."

When the lot fell upon the twelfth month, Haman convinced the king Ahasuerus to decree the destruction of the Jews. These are his words, **Esther 3:8** "And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them." **Verse 9:** "If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed:..."

This he devised against the Jews, because of his hatred towards a righteous Jew named Mordecai. **Esther 3:1** "After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him." **Verse 2:** "And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence." **Verse 3:** "Then the king's servants, which were in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai, Why transgressest thou the king's commandment?" **Verse 4:** "Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's matters would stand: for he had told them that he was a Jew." **Verse 5:** "And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath." **Verse 6:** "And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai."

Before all this took place, Mordecai had gained the favor of king Ahasuerus by uncovering a plan of treason by two of the king's chamberlains. **Esther 2:21** "In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus." **Verse 22:** "And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto **Esther the queen**; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai's name." **Verse 23:** "And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king."

After Haman received power from the king to destroy the Jews, Queen Esther sought of the king favor for her and her people. Esther revealed to the king how Haman sought to destroy the Jews without the king being informed of the whole matter. **Esther 7:3** "Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:" **Verse 4:** "For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish..." **Verse 5:** "Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?" **Verse 6:** "And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman..."

Then Haman was revealed to be a spy for the Macedonians (Greeks; **1st Maccabees 1:1**) and this also proves that Macedonians/Greeks are a family of the Edomites (which is the Biblical name of the so-called white race), who

PURIM

became the infamous Greeks and Romans (since Haman the Agagite was a Macedonian). The **Apocrypha Esther 16:10** *“For Aman, a Macedonian, the son of Amadatha, being indeed a stranger from the Persian blood, and far distant from our goodness, and as a stranger received of us.”* **Verse 11:** *“Had so far forth obtained the favour that we shew toward every nation, as that he was called our father, and was continually honoured of all the next person unto the king.”* **Verse 12:** *“But he, not bearing his great dignity, went about to deprive us of our kingdom and life:”* **Verse 13:** *“Having by manifold and cunning deceits sought of us the destruction, as well of Mardocheus, who saved our life, and continually procured our good, as also of blameless Esther, partaker of our kingdom, with their whole nation.”* **Verse 14:** *“For by these means he thought, finding us destitute of friends to have translated the kingdom of the Persians to the Macedonians.”*

After Esther pleaded for her kinsmen, the king had given Mordecai the power to write in the king’s name. In the copy of the writing, Mordecai commanded the Jews to be ready against that day and avenge themselves on their enemies. **Esther 9:1** *“Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king’s commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, (though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them;)”* **Verse 2:** *“The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people.”*

Then went out the Israelites by the decree of the King, and slaughtered all those that conspired against them to destroy them and they killed within two days 75,300 people and praised the power of the Most High, **Esther 9:15** *“For the Jews that were in Shushan gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the month Adar, and slew three hundred men at Shushan; but on the prey they laid not their hand.”* **Verse 16:** *“But the other Jews that were in the king’s provinces gathered themselves together, and stood for their lives, and had rest from their enemies, and slew of their foes seventy and five thousand, but they laid not their hands on the prey,”*

The feast is kept yearly for two days with great gladness for the deliverance that we received. **Esther 9:17** *“On the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of the same rested they, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.”* **Verse 18:** *“But the Jews that were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof; and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.”* **Verse 19:** *“Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.”* **Verse 20:** *“And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh and far,”* **Verse 21:** *“To stablish this among them, that they should keep the **fourteenth day** of the month Adar, and the **fifteenth day** of the same, yearly,”*

The feast is to be kept on the fourteenth and fifteenth day of the twelfth month which is called Adar (which falls between February and March). These days are the Biblical solemn Feast days according to the Holy Bible. Today we should keep these days like our forefathers instructed us, resting with gladness of heart and of sending portions one to another. Shalam!

Destruction of Nicanor

1st Maccabees 7:1 *“In the hundred and one and fiftieth year Demetrius the son of Seleucus departed from Rome, and came up with a few men unto a city of the sea coast, and reigned there.”* Three years after the temple was cleansed from the abomination of desolation (please read **Dedication of the Altar**) was Demetrius reigning in the stead of Antiochus Eupator.

2nd Maccabees 14:1 *“After three years was Judas informed, that Demetrius the son of Seleucus, having entered by the haven of Tripolis with a great power and navy,”* **Verse 2:** *“Had taken the country, and killed Antiochus, and Lysias his protector.”*

Then the wicked of Israel, thought to have an opportunity to take rulership over the righteous. **1st Maccabees 7:4** *“So his host slew them. Now when Demetrius was set upon the throne of his kingdom,”* **Verse 5:** *“There came unto him all the wicked and ungodly men of Israel, having Alcimus, who was desirous to be high priest, for their captain:”*

2nd Maccabees 14:3 *“Now one Alcimus, who had been high priest, and had defiled himself wilfully in the times of their mingling with the Gentiles, seeing that by no means he could save himself, nor have any more access to the holy altar,”* **Verse 4:** *“Came to king Demetrius in the hundred and one and fiftieth year, presenting unto him a crown of gold, and a palm, and also of the boughs which were used solemnly in the temple: and so that day he held his peace.”* **Verse 5:** *“Howbeit having gotten opportunity to further his foolish enterprize, and being called into counsel by Demetrius, and asked how the Jews stood affected, and what they intended, he answered thereunto:”* **Verse 6:** *“Those of the Jews that he called Assideans, whose captain is Judas Maccabeus, nourish war and are seditious, and will not let the rest be in peace.”* **Verse 7:** *“Therefore I, being deprived of mine ancestors’ honour, I mean the high priesthood, am now come hither:”*

1st Maccabees 7:6 *“And they accused the people to the king, saying, Judas and his brethren have slain all thy friends, and driven us out of our own land.”* Alcimus slandered all the righteous men that fought against the wickedness of the Greeks, namely Judas and the company of Assideans who were mighty men of Israel (**1st Maccabees 2:42**). Then he petitioned of the king to send some help for his wicked devices.

1st Maccabees 7:7 *“Now therefore send some man whom thou trustest, and let him go and see what havock he hath made among us, and in the king’s land, and let him punish them with all them that aid them.”* **Verse 8:** *“Then the king chose Bacchides, a friend of the king, who ruled beyond the flood, and was a great man in the kingdom, and faithful to the king,”* **Verse 9:** *“And him he sent with that wicked Alcimus, whom he made high priest, and commanded that he should take vengeance of the children of Israel.”* **Verse 10:** *“So they departed, and came with a great power into the land of Judea, where they sent messengers to Judas and his brethren with peaceable words deceitfully.”* **Verse 11:** *“But they gave no heed to their words; for they saw that they were come with a great power.”* **Verse 12:** *“Then did there assemble unto Alcimus and Bacchides a company of scribes, to require justice.”* **Verse 13:** *“Now the Assideans were the first among the children of Israel that sought peace of them:”* **Verse 14:** *“For said they, One that is a priest of the seed of Aaron is come with this army, and he will do us no wrong.”* **Verse 15:** *“So he spake unto them, peaceably, and sware unto them, saying, we will procure the harm neither of you nor your friends.”* **Verse 16:** *“Whereupon they believed him: howbeit he took of them threescore men, and slew them in one day, according to the words which he wrote,”* **Verse 17:** *“The flesh of thy saints have they cast out, and their blood have they shed round about Jerusalem, and there was none to bury them.”* **Verse 18:** *“Wherefore the fear and dread of them fell upon all the people, who said, There is neither truth nor righteousness in them; for they have broken the covenant and oath that they made.”* **Verse 19:** *“After this, removed Bacchides from Jerusalem, and pitched his tents in Bezeth, where he sent and took many of the men that had forsaken him, and certain of the people also, and when he had slain them, he cast them into the great pit.”* **Verse 20:** *“Then committed he the country to Alcimus, and left with him a power to aid him: so Bacchides went to the king.”* **Verse 21:** *“But Alcimus contended for the high priesthood.”* **Verse 22:** *“And unto him resorted all such as troubled the people, who, after they had gotten the land of Juda into their power, did much hurt in Israel.”* **Verse 23:** *“Now when Judas saw all the mischief that Alcimus and his company had done among the Israelites, even above the heathen,”* **Verse 24:** *“He went out into all the coasts of Judea round about, and took vengeance of them that had revolted from him, so that they durst no more go forth into the country.”* **Verse 25:** *“On the other side, when Alcimus saw that Judas and his company had*

Destruction of Nicanor

gotten the upper hand, and knew that he was not able to abide their force, he went again to the king, and said all the worst of them that he could."

2nd Maccabees 14:12 *"And forthwith calling Nicanor, who had been master of the elephants, and making him governor over Judea, he sent him forth," Verse 13: "Commanding him to slay Judas, and to scatter them that were with him, and to make Alcimus high priest of the great temple."*

This is the same Nicanor that wanted to sell the Jews as slaves during the rule of Antiochus. **2nd Maccabees 8:34** *"As for that most ungracious Nicanor, who had brought a thousand merchants to buy the Jews," Verse 35: "He was through the help of the Lord brought down by them, of whom he made least account; and putting off his glorious apparel, and discharging his company, he came like a fugitive servant through the midland unto Antioch having very great dishonour, for that his host was destroyed." Verse 36: "Thus he, that took upon him to make good to the Romans their tribute by means of captives in Jerusalem, told abroad, that the Jews had God to fight for them, and therefore they could not be hurt, because they followed the laws that he gave them." In examining the past history of Nicanor, we have learned of his hatred towards the Jews and also how he understood of the strength of Judas and his army; that is the Most High.*

1st Maccabees 7:26 *"Then the king sent Nicanor, one of his honourable princes, a man that bare deadly hate unto Israel, with commandment to destroy the people."*

2nd Maccabees 14:17 *"Now Simon, Judas' brother, had joined battle with Nicanor, but was somewhat discomfited through the sudden silence of his enemies." Verse 18: "Nevertheless Nicanor, hearing of the manliness of them that were with Judas, and the courageousness that they had to fight for their country, durst not try the matter by the sword." Verse 19: "Wherefore he sent Posidonius, and Theodotus, and Mattathias, to make peace." Verse 20: "So when they had taken long advisement thereupon, and the captain had made the multitude acquainted therewith, and it appeared that they were all of one mind, they consented to the covenants," Verse 21: "And appointed a day to meet in together by themselves: and when the day came, and stools were set for either of them," Verse 22: "Judas placed armed men ready in convenient places, lest some treachery should be suddenly practised by the enemies: so they made a peaceable conference." Verse 26: "But Alcimus, perceiving the love that was betwixt them, and considering the covenants that were made, came to Demetrius, and told him that Nicanor was not well affected toward the state; for that he had ordained Judas, a traitor to his realm, to be the king's successor." Verse 27: "Then the king being in a rage, and provoked with the accusations of the most wicked man, wrote to Nicanor, signifying that he was much displeased with the covenants, and commanding him that he should send Maccabeus prisoner in all haste unto Antioch."*

1st Maccabees 7:29 *"He came therefore to Judas, and they saluted one another peaceably. Howbeit the enemies were prepared to take away Judas by violence." Verse 30: "Which thing after it was known to Judas, to wit, that he came unto him with deceit, he was sore afraid of him, and would see his face no more." Verse 31: "Nicanor also, when he saw that his counsel was discovered, went out to fight against Judas beside Capharsalama." Verse 32: "Where there were slain of Nicanor's side about five thousand men, and the rest fled into the city of David."*

2nd Maccabees 14:31 *"But the other, knowing that he was notably prevented by Judas' policy, came into the great and holy temple, and commanded the priests, that were offering their usual sacrifices, to deliver him the man." Verse 32: "And when they swore that they could not tell where the man was whom he sought," Verse 33: "He stretched out his right hand toward the temple, and made an oath in this manner: If ye will not deliver me Judas as a prisoner, I will lay this temple of God even with the ground, and I will break down the altar, and erect a notable temple unto Bacchus." Again the temple and the people are threatened by a proud heathen (Greek). Bacchus is a false god that was worshipped by the Greeks, he is known to be the god of wine, reveling (partying) and orgies. Please read, **2nd Maccabees 7:1-8**. Today our people have carnivals (wicked rev-*

Destruction of Nicanor

eling) named after this false god such as the famous Trinidadian carnival of Bacchanal.

1st Maccabees 7:36 “Then the priests entered in, and stood before the altar and the temple, weeping, and saying,” **Verse 37:** “Thou, O Lord, didst choose this house to be called by thy name, and to be a house of prayer and petition for thy people.” **Verse 38:** “Be avenged of this man and his host, and let them fall by the sword; remember their blasphemies, and suffer them not to continue any longer.” **Verse 39:** “So Nicanor went out of Jerusalem, and pitched his tents in Bethhoron, where an host out of Syria met him.” **Verse 40:** “But Judas pitched in Adasa with three thousand men, ...” While Judas exhorted his men in the word of the Lord, Nicanor continued to speak proudly. Yet the company of Judas was confident in the spirit of the Lord.

2nd Maccabees 15:17 “Thus being well comforted by the words of Judas, which were very good, and able to stir them up to valour, and to encourage the hearts of the young men, they determined not to pitch camp, but courageously to set upon them, and manfully to try the matter by conflict, because **the city and the sanctuary and the temple were in danger.**” **Verse 18:** “For the care that they took for their wives, and their children, their brethren, and folks, was in least account with them; but the greatest and principal fear was for the **holy temple.**” **Verse 19:** “Also they that were in the city took not the least care, being troubled for the conflict abroad.” **Verse 20:** “And now, when as all looked what should be the trial, and the enemies were already come near, and the army was set in array, and the beasts conveniently placed, and the horsemen set in wings,” **Verse 21:** “Maccabeus seeing the coming of the multitude, and the divers preparations of armour, and the fierceness of the beasts, stretched out his hands toward heaven, and called upon the Lord that worketh wonders, knowing that victory cometh not by arms, but even as it seemeth good to him, he giveth it to such as are worthy.” **Verse 22:** “Therefore in his prayer he said after this manner; O Lord, thou didst send thine angel in the time of Ezekias king of Judea, and didst slay in the host of Sennacherib an hundred fourscore and five thousand.” **Verse 23:** “Wherefore now also, O Lord of heaven, send a good angel before us for a fear and dread unto them;” **Verse 24:** “And through the might of thine arm let those be stricken with terror, that come against thy holy people to blaspheme. And he ended thus.” **Verse 25:** “Then Nicanor and they that were with him came forward with trumpets and songs.” **Verse 26:** “But Judas and his company encountered the enemies with invocation and prayer.” **Verse 27:** “So that fighting with their hands, and praying unto God with their hearts, they slew no less than thirty and five thousand men: **for through the appearance of God they were greatly cheered.**” **Verse 28:** “Now when the battle was done, returning again with joy, they knew that Nicanor lay dead in his harness.” **Verse 29:** “Then they made a great shout and a noise, praising the Almighty in their own language.” **Verse 30:** “And Judas, who was ever the chief defender of the citizens both in body and mind, and who continued his love toward his countrymen all his life, commanded to strike off Nicanor’s head, and his hand with his shoulder, and bring them to Jerusalem.” **Verse 31:** “So when he was there, and called them of his nation together, and set the priests before the altar, he sent for them that were of the tower,” **Verse 32:** “And shewed them vile Nicanor’s head, and the hand of that blasphemer, which with proud brags he had stretched out against the holy temple of the Almighty.” **Verse 33:** “And when he had cut out the tongue of that ungodly Nicanor, he commanded that they should give it by pieces unto the fowls, and hang up the reward of his madness before the temple.” **Verse 34:** “So every man praised toward the heaven the glorious Lord, saying, Blessed be he that hath kept his own place undefiled.” **Verse 35:** “He hanged also Nicanor’s head upon the tower, an evident and manifest sign unto all of the help of the Lord.”

2nd Maccabees 15:36 “And they ordained all with a common decree in no case to let that day pass without solemnity, but to celebrate the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which in the Syrian tongue is called Adar, the day before Mardocheus’ day.” Such a great gladness was amongst the people that they kept that day solemnly. Therefore they ordained this day which is before days of Mardocheus’ **Purim** to be remembered and kept by the nation of Israel in the *thirteenth day of the twelfth month*.

2nd Maccabees 15:37 “Thus went it with Nicanor: and from that time forth the Hebrews had the city in their power. And here will I make an end.” *Shalam!*

WHY I DON'T WANT TO BE YOUR VALENTINE

If such statement as the title was to be said to you how would you feel? As if the person did not love you, right? After reading this report concerning Valentine's Day you will be saying the same thing to your significant other because of love.

Valentine's Day is known to be the day to express your love or your love interest to another by romantic traditions. I know you are saying to yourself, and what's wrong with that? Is not God about Love? Yes he is but do you know what love is.

2nd John 1:6 *"And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it."*

Love according to the Bible is the keeping of the laws, statutes and commandments. This is truly the meaning of love, which is not understood by those that are in sin. Are you asking yourself? How can you express your love by keeping the commandments?

An example is what Paul said in **Ephesians 5:25** *"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;"*

The apostle Paul is instructing the husbands in Christ how are they to love their wives. If we follow after the pattern of Christ a husband would correct his wife from her sin. **Proverbs 27:5** *"Open rebuke is better than secret love."* He would provide for his wife as Christ did for the church. **Exodus 21:10** *"If he take him another wife; her food, her raiment, and her duty of marriage, shall he not diminish."* Not just physical nourishment but more importantly the spiritual. **1st Peters 3:7** *"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."*

Romans 13:10 *"Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."* Clearly we could see that truly the keeping of the commandments is love for there is no ill/evil committed by keeping the law.

Ephesians 5:28 *"So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself."* **Verse 29:** *"For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:"* Therefore if a man truly loves his wife he would keep the commandments towards her and the charity that is between them would be made manifest in his actions. **1st John 3:18** *"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."* Likewise the woman if she is to love her husband this could only be accomplished by the keeping of the commandments. **Titus 2:4** *"That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,"*

Examine Valentine's Day, does it teach us to do these things? NO! So what does it teach us? The love of the world; **1st John 2:15** *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."* Indeed love is part of Valentine's Day, the love of sin.

WHY I DON'T WANT TO BE YOUR VALENTINE

On the eve of February the 14th was kept the Roman festival called Lupercalia, which today is known as St. Valentine's Day. This day was in honor to the god of fertility and of sexual love. The religious ceremonies were directed by the Luperci, the "brothers of the wolf", priests of Faunus, dressed only in goatskin. During Lupercalia, a dog and two male goats were sacrificed. Two youths were anointed with the blood, which was wiped off with wool soaked in milk, after which they were expected to smile. They afterwards ran round the Palatine Hill with thongs cut from the sacrificed goats in their hands. These were called Februa. Girls would line up on their route to receive lashes from these whips. This was supposed to ensure fertility. The name of the month of February is derived from the Latin februare, "to purify" (Februus the god of purification).

Apparently Venus the god of sexual love was also involved because to this day Cupid the son of Venus is associated with Valentine's Day. **James 4:4** *"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."* This celebration is not about love but adultery against God. **1st Corinthians 10:14** *"Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry."* As we all should know idolatry is the beginning of all manner of wickedness.

Wisdom of Solomon 14:12 *"For the devising of idols was the beginning of spiritual fornication, and the invention of them the corruption of life."* Indeed following after idols and their festivals leads to the corruption of life. Such as in this so called holiday, our people are taught to be whoremongers and whores because they do not have any care for the laws of marriage.

Hebrews 13:4 *"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."* Therefore leave all manner of evil, do not continue in sin by celebrating this day. For those who are married, express your love in righteousness and not idolatry. Seek the word of the Lord that you may establish your marriage in true love. To the rest that try to disguise their evil by calling it dating or saying that the person they are dealing with is their boyfriend or girlfriend. The truth of the matter is that you will be Judge by God as whoremongers! Shalam





2nd Maccabees 5:2 “And then it happened, that through all the city, for the space almost of forty days, there were seen horsemen running in the air, in cloth of gold, and armed with lances, like a band of soldiers,” Verse 2: “And troops of horsemen in array, encountering and running one against another, with shaking of shields, and multitude of pikes, and drawing of swords, and casting of darts, and glittering of golden ornaments, and harness of all sorts.” Verse 3: “Wherefore every man prayed that that apparition might turn to good.”

If you have any questions or concerns about the Newsletter please contact us. We are also open to suggestions for topics, thank you.

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Hardships and Tribulation

Acts 14:22 “Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.”

Prepare yourselves for he said MUCH TRIBULATION. **1st Peters 4:1** “Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;” Verse 2: “That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.” Verse 12: “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.” Verse 13: “But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be

glad also with exceeding joy.”

I know presently some of you that may be reading this are going through many temptations and trials and are sadden by these things. But remember that you are not forsaken of the Father therefore pray and submit yourself unto him. Read your history and remember that many have suffered and prevailed because of God. Strengthen your hands and feeble knees by prayer and meditation in the word. Also comfort yourself in the support of your brothers and sisters for they have suffered the same things.

1st Peters 1:6 “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:” Verse 7: “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that

perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:”

1st Peters 5:6 “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:” Verse 7: “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.” Verse 8: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:” Verse 9: “Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.” Verse 10: “But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.” Shalom!