

Handout 10-D

The Book of 1 Maccabees

Directions: Read the cited scripture passages from 1 Maccabees and related biblical footnotes to help you to fill in the blanks for each item.

1. The book of 1 Maccabees opens during the second century BC with a description of the occupation of the Jewish homeland by the Seleucid kings, the successors to Alexander the Great of Greece. These kings did not rule justly and they persecuted the Jews. The First Book of Maccabees is concerned with the king mentioned in 1 Maccabees 1:10, who is _____.
2. Some of the Jews wished to water down the Jewish faith in order to become more like the neighboring Greeks. These collaborators wanted to make an alliance with the _____. (1 Mc 1:11)
3. To show that they were willing to be like the Greeks, these Jews built in Jerusalem a complex known in Greek culture as the _____. (1 Mc 1:14)
4. This was not strictly an athletic facility as its name might suggest, but was a place where boys and young men went to study mathematics, music, poetry, military skills, and athletics. In short, it was a place to study and learn the culture of the _____.
5. As a result, the Jewish boys and young men began to abandon the _____. (1 Mc 1:15)
6. Antiochus was treacherous in capturing the city of _____. (1 Mc 1:29–35)
7. In 1 Maccabees 1:44–50, King Antiochus orders all the Jews to give up their religious practices under the penalty of _____. Read 1 Maccabees 1:54–63 to learn of the punishments and horrors inflicted on the Jews under Antiochus.
8. King Antiochus also erected a _____ (1 Mc 1:54) on the altar of holocausts in the Temple of Jerusalem.
9. Read 1 Maccabees 2:1–30. This section tells of the beginning of the revolt against Antiochus. It was led by a priest of the family of Joarib named _____.
10. Mattathias and his followers engaged in guerrilla warfare against their enemies until Mattathias died. He was succeeded by his son _____. (1 Mc 2:66)
11. Before he died, Mattathias ordered his sons to do two things: “Pay back the Gentiles what they deserve, and observe the _____.” (1 Mc 2:68)

12. The text in 1 Maccabees 3:1 tells where the book received its name. The word *Maccabees* means “hammer” and is applied to one man named _____, who struck at his enemies like a hammer.
13. Judas Maccabeus was a great military leader in the revolt against Antiochus, but his most impressive and memorable accomplishment was the repairing of the destroyed sanctuary and _____. (1 Mc 4:47–48)
14. The Jews celebrated the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem with eight days of rejoicing (1 Mc 4:56–59). This was the beginning of the Jewish feast of _____ (See *NABRE footnote*.) which commemorates the first celebration of the rededication on _____. (See *footnote on 1 Mc 4:52 for date*.)
15. As a great leader, Judas did not stay behind the lines of battle, but as 1 Maccabees 5:43 says,

_____.