

Walk Through The Bible

St. Barnabas Parish

Wulff and Baillou Hill Roads

Nassau, New Providence,

The Bahamas

25th September 2007

II Maccabees

1. II Maccabees 9:1-29 Every Rope has an End!!!!

- a. 1-17 While on a raid in a temple in Persia, Antiochus is struck by the hand of God. In his rage he heads back to Jerusalem to make it a cemetery for all Jews living in the city. He is struck by a disease. He repents after a fall from his chariot and the fact that he cannot stand the odour from his own body. He repents and is humbled by God.
- b. 18-27 Antiochus writes a letter to the Jews commending his son. He has come to grips with the fact that he may not have long to live - humbled by his sickness!!!
- c. 28-29 The king dies and his body is brought back to Antioch by Philip. The confidence of the mighty has been shaken!!!

2. II Maccabees 10:1-38 Time for Restoration and Victory

- a. 1-9 These verses describe the purification of the Temple. Judas and his forces regain Jerusalem and the temple. They restore the worship of Yahweh by removing the

objects of paganism in a ceremony called “Dedication” or “Hanukkah” in Hebrew. For eight days they celebrate the Feast as though it were the Feast of Booths.

- b. 10-13 Antiochus IV son comes to the throne. He is only about nine years old. What is clear is that political confusion now becomes a way of life for his empire.
- c. 14-23 The Idumeans were the descendants of the Old Testament Edomites. They had moved into Palestine during the Exile. They had also aided in the Hellenizing of the Jews. They now were involved in carrying out attacks on Judas. Unfortunately they are defeated by Judas and his forces.
- d. 34-38 When Timothy, whom Judas had already defeated, comes out a second time against Judas, he is given a second beating. Judas is aided by angelic forces.

3. II Maccabees 11:1-38 Letters, Letters and more Letters.

- a. 1-15 These verses describe the defeat of Lysias. Once again the plans of the wicked are brought to nought. God provides an angelic figure to lead His people into battle. At the end of the day the empire seeks terms with the Jewish liberated nation.
- b. 16-38 Four letters are written concerning the peace that is to take place in the region. One letter asks for terms of peace. Another tries to assure the Jews of peace. While yet another shows the growing influence of the Romans in the region.

4. II Maccabees 12:1-45 Peace along with Treachery

- a. 1-9 Despite the call for peace, the people in Joppa deal treacherously with the Jews by drowning them. Judas decides to attack them and punish them for what they have done. The people in the city of Jamnia decide to behave just like the people in Joppa toward the Jews.
- b. 10-31 The Arab nomads become involved in the struggle only to meet with defeat. They make a treaty with Judas to become his friends in time of war and battle.

- c. 31-45 The governor, Gorgias, fights against Judas. Some Jews fall in battle. It is only after their bodies are in the process of being removed that the Jews discover that they were carrying pagan objects under their robes. Judas offers sacrifices on behalf of the dead.