

# Walk Through The Bible

St. Barnabas Parish Church

Wulff and Baillou Hill Roads

Nassau, New Providence,

The Bahamas

27<sup>th</sup> November 2007

## III Maccabees

### 1. III Maccabees 5:1-51 The Madness of Fighting Against God

- a. 1-9 The king gives orders to the Keeper of the elephants to intoxicate the animals and then set them loose on the Jews in order to trample them to death. The king returned to his feast with his friends who have the same approach as he has towards the Jews. The Jews however spent their time in bonds in prayer.
- b. 10-13 After the animals were prepared, Hermon tried to report to the king. The Lord God had allowed the king to oversleep and the hour passed for the Jews to be executed and therefore they were once again spared.
- c. 14-22 After returning to his “drinking party” the King once again summons the Keeper of the elephants and orders him to intoxicate the animals in order to carry out his evil plot. They spent that night devising insults for those doomed to death.
- d. 23-35 Once again the animals are prepared, but this time the king is struck by God in such a way that he does not order the destruction of the Jews, and the king literally tells his “Friends” that the Jews are innocent. One by one his “Friends” return to their daily labour while the Jews rejoice that God has once again delivered them from destruction.

- e. 36-44 Once again the king reconvened the party and made the same threat but his guests want action. After making a solemn vow that the deed will be done and more to the Jews in Palestine, the “Friends” go away happy.
- f. 45-51 The animals are once again intoxicated and the king and his men prepare to trample the Jews. Meanwhile the Jews seeing the dust-cloud produced by the elephants begin to make what they believe is their final cry to heaven.

**2. III Maccabees 6:1-41 Stop Weeping Like People Who Have No Hope!!!**

- a. 1-15 Eleazar brings the tumult to an end as he prayed a prayer of hope based on Israel’s past relationship with God. Firstly he remembers his heritage. Secondly he recalls what God has done to all boastful leaders who rise against Him and His people. Thirdly he resigns himself to the mercy of God that whatever He decides is well done. God will show Himself truly to be their God before the eyes of the gentiles.
- b. 16-21 God never fails!!! The divine intervention causes the animals to turn back on the army and even the king is left trembling.
- c. 22-29 The events cause a change of heart for the King of Egypt. In fact, the King turned on his friends who were encouraging him to destroy the Jews; they almost cost the king his blessings and life. The king then reverses all of his rulings. The Jews responded with praise.
- d. 30-34 The king gives them everything to rejoice over their deliverance. The joy of the crowd was turned to sorrow. Their fortunes were reversed in an instant.
- e. 35-41 Those who were marked for death are now given a new lease on life. They leave rejoicing in the deliverance of what God had carried out for their sake. The king sends a letter to let his nation know of his decision.

**3. III Maccabees 7:1-23 The truth will finally come out!!!**

- a. 1-9 The source of the King’s actions seemed to have been due to his “Friends” who pushed the matter. He and his nation have now discovered that the God of the Jews will defend His people. Anything done to them would bring one before the courts of the Heaven.
- b. 10-16 The unfaithful Jews must now be dealt with in a harsh manner. They had broken faith with God and His people and some 300 of them received the death penalty. Disobedience will not go unpunished.

- c. 17-23 God's people celebrated their deliverance. The king, who once tried to destroy them, now does everything to keep them happy. All that they lost, they now regained and more. What was confiscated is now returned. They have good reason to bless their God.

**Conclusion**