

THE IGNATIUS CATHOLIC STUDY BIBLE

REVISED STANDARD VERSION
SECOND CATHOLIC EDITION

THE FIRST AND SECOND BOOKS OF THE MACCABEES

With Introduction, Commentary, and Notes

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with Study Questions by

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STUDY QUESTIONS

1 Maccabees

Chapter 1

For understanding

1. **1:11.** Who were the "lawless men" and what were they commonly called? In light of the divine instructions given to Israel, what warning do these words serve to give the reader? While the covenant prohibition is specific to Israel's conquest of the land, how is the rationale against them also illustrated in 1 Maccabees?
2. **1:14.** What was the gymnasium? How was removing the marks of one's circumcision seen?
3. **1:24–28.** As the first of many poetic sections in 1 Maccabees, when was this lament composed? What does the allusion to Joel's call to repentance, along with the nation being "clothed in shame", show about the author's viewpoint?
4. **1:54.** How was the "desolating sacrilege" also known? To what does it refer? What does 2 Mac 6:2 record about it? Where else is the abomination of desolation mentioned? To what does it refer there? What does Jesus use this act of Antiochus to describe?

For application

1. **1:1–8.** How does history validate Lord Acton's saying that "power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely"? What examples can you think of that might disprove the saying? What virtues would be necessary for one in power to resist its corrupting influence?
2. **1:11–15.** Why do religious people living in a secular culture tend to accommodate themselves to it? What happens to their religious commitments as a result? How is this accommodating tendency reflected in the life of the Catholic Church in our country?
3. **1:41–50.** How do appeals for national unity ring in the ears of a population that is forced to abandon its culture and conform to that of the occupying power? Why is the practice of religion a threat to power?
4. **1:62–64.** In Robert Bolt's play *A Man for All Seasons*, Thomas More says of himself, "This is not the stuff of which martyrs are made." What changed his mind? What conditions would bring you to the point of choosing to accept martyrdom rather than submit to evil?

Chapter 2

For understanding

1. **2:23–26.** On whose zeal is that of Mattathias modeled? As a leader in the community, what responsibility does Mattathias have? Like Phinehas, who was given a perpetual priesthood (cf. 2:54), what will the line of Mattathias eventually form? What does the likening of Mattathias to Phinehas serve to show, and in contrast with what? While Christ's New Covenant differs from the Mosaic Law regarding punishment for apostasy, what responsibility do both affirm? What Christian teaching does Mattathias' defensive war to protect the innocent and restore justice anticipate?
2. **2:27–28.** How does Mattathias' summons echo the call of Moses and the violent zeal of the sons of Levi? What does the analogy with the Levites, who received the priesthood for their willingness to prioritize God over tribal or familial ties, here foreshadow?
3. **2:39–41.** Since war on the Sabbath was seen as violating the biblical commandment of rest, what justification for Mattathias' defensive warfare does the author present? What precedent was there for warfare on the Sabbath? How did Patristic readers such as Tertullian understand the Maccabees' example?
4. **Word Study: Show Zeal (2:50).** By itself, what is the moral value of zeal? How does an analogy like being "fired up" illustrate its meaning, both positively and negatively? How does Scripture thus present both negative and positive examples of zealousness? How does 1 Maccabees show heroes who are zealous in the positive sense? How have Christians throughout the centuries rightly regarded zealous figures like the Maccabees as heroes of the faith? How does zeal apply to Christ's disciples and even to Christ himself?

For application

1. **2:7.** How do you regard the age in which you live? In what other age would you prefer to have been born? Why do you think the Lord wants you where you are?
2. **2:22.** How do you discern when a law is unjust? What is the obligation of a Christian to obey such a law, and where does refusal to obey find its justification (cf. CCC 2242)?
2. **2:39–41.** What right does a person have to defend his life, even to the point of killing an attacker? When does engaging in legitimate defense become a grave obligation (CCC 2263–65)?
4. **2:50.** At what point in Jesus' ministry did his disciples recall of him that "zeal for your house will consume me" (Jn 2:17)? To what kind of zeal does Christ call his disciples? Have you ever had the opportunity to show zeal for God's house? If so, how have you shown it?

Chapter 3

For understanding

1. **3:10–26.** What does the absence of mention in 2 Maccabees of the battles against Apollonius and Seron possibly suggest? Why would such battles also necessitate the taking of spoils?
2. **3:19.** Of what is the use of "Heaven" with reference to God an indirect way of speaking in 1 Maccabees?

Study Questions

- 3:27–31. What does the author set as the primary reasons for Antiochus' expedition into Persia? What do other reasons, derived from ancient sources, include? What does the author's focus on Antiochus' actions as they relate to Israel show?
- 3:46–53. Why does Judas take the people to Mizpah? What do they consult there and ask for in prayer? As St. John Chrysostom writes regarding their fasting and petitions, of what did the Maccabees remind the people?

For application

- 3:19. What expressions does English have to refer to God without mentioning his name? How careful are you to avoid taking the name of God in vain, even casually?
- 3:29. Many in our country have overextended their financial resources. What is your attitude to buying on credit or being in debt? What options do you have for handling debt? What do you think God wants of you regarding your indebtedness?
- 3:47. In times of national emergency, what is the value of taking time to fast and pray? What does the act of fasting from food add to prayer? What are some occasions on which you have been asked to fast and pray?
- 3:50–57. Following their time of prayer for direction, the army prepared for action immediately. In their case, what prompted them not to wait before making a decision? When you are under time constraints and have several options, how do you decide what is the Lord's will if you have not received a clear answer?

Chapter 4

For understanding

- 4:15. What is another name for Gazara, and where is it? Where is Idumea, and how far do its plains extend? Where are Azotus and Jamnia? For what is Azotus, also known as Ashdod, remembered?
- 4:30–33. How does Judas' prayer recall the two examples of David (1 Sam 17) and Jonathan (1 Sam 14:1–14)?
- 4:46. To what Jewish expectation does this brief comment allude?
- 4:52–59. Three years after the abomination of desolation was erected in 167 B.C., what did Judas complete and institute? From what is the name Hanukkah derived? How is Hanukkah like the feasts of the Temple's dedication under Solomon (1 Kings 8:65–66) and Hezekiah (2 Chron 29:17)?

For application

- 4:17. Although his soldiers needed weapons and armor, why did Judas urge them to wait before plundering the enemy's camp? What is delayed gratification? How might a premature celebration over an early victory be dangerous when a larger one looms?
- 4:24. What is the most recent personal victory for which you have given thanks? Do your prayers of thanks make use of Scripture (e.g., by quoting verses that come to mind)? How important is Scripture in your daily prayer?
- 4:30–33. Read carefully Judas' prayer before a battle where he is vastly outnumbered. What is his level of confidence as he prays? What does he wish upon the enemy? How can his prayer inspire yours as you face an enemy whose strength is greater than yours?
- 4:52–59. How long is the Christmas season? How do you and your family celebrate it throughout that period? Why celebrate it for such a long time?

Chapter 5

For understanding

- 5:1–8. By what circumstances are Judas' campaigns in this chapter spurred, and what may have occasioned them? Though Judas assumes the role of a second Joshua, how is the motivation for his battles presented?
- 5:30. What war machines did Hellenistic warfare include? How do the Maccabean forces fare with them?
- 5:46. What and where is Ephron? What are the reasons for its hostility? On what are Judas' actions here modeled?
- 5:61–62. What is the significance of these verses? What are the twofold errors of Joseph and Azariah that brought them and those who followed them to destruction?

For application

- 5:18–19. Think of a time when you had to delegate responsibility to a subordinate, whether an employee or even a child in the family. What was the situation? What qualities did you look for? What limitations did you place on the subordinate's role? How did you ensure that the subordinate did as instructed?
- 5:33. Recall the tactic of Gideon attacking Midian (Judg 7:18–20). Why would a smaller force attack while crying out with loud trumpets and prayer? Why do attacking soldiers shout as they fight?
- 5:55–62. As a child, if you were punished for doing something you were told not to do, what were the consequences? Have you ever been told by the Lord not to do something you had in mind? If so, how well did you obey?

Chapter 6

For understanding

- 6:1–17. While First Maccabees records the death of Antiochus after the restoration of the Temple in 164 B.C., when do 2 Mac and a Babylonian king list place it? For the author of 1 Mac, to whom does Antiochus serve as a counterexample?
- 6:28–31. What forces and what strategy do the king (and Lysias, cf. 6:55) bring to bear? Because the use of elephants by the Seleucid army was banned by Rome in the treaty of Apamea in 188 B.C., what does their violation of this agreement lead the Romans to do, leading to what result?
- 6:43–46. Who is the first of the Maccabees to die? How does the author record this event? Whose resolve is evoked by Eleazar's breaking straight through the phalanx to go directly to the enemy's heart? What does St. Ambrose, writing on fortitude, infer about Eleazar's valor?

4. **6:55–61.** Despite its defeats and weakened condition, to what did the nation's faithful observance of the Sabbath year eventually contribute, and how? What are the Seleucids thus forced to grant, corresponding with what promises in Lev 26:7–8?

For application

1. **6:3–9.** Have you experienced setbacks that caused you grief? If so, on hindsight, how significant were they, and how severely did they affect you emotionally? How have you surrendered them to the Lord?
2. **6:12–16.** What is the difference between remorse and repentance? Which of these does Antiochus show? What should be the outcome of real repentance?
3. **6:49.** According to Lev 25:2–7, what is supposed to happen to the land during the sabbatical year? What was the rationale for letting the land lie fallow, according to Leviticus? What goal might a person have in mind who decides to take a sabbatical year for himself?

Chapter 7

For understanding

1. **7:5.** Who is Alcimus, and how does he win the support of the Hasideans? Where has the last of the line of the Oniad family (which traditionally held the high priesthood) gone? Under whom do the Hasmoneans take the high priestly office?
2. **7:26.** Why was Nicanor forced to abandon the covenant he made with Judas? Since the account in 1 Mac passes over this, into what attempt does it go? Where is a longer account of the relationship between Nicanor and Judas given?
3. **7:40.** Where is Adasa situated? How many men is Judas recorded as having here, as compared to the number in 5:20? After the near defeat by Lysias, what has Judas managed to do with his small remaining army?
4. **7:50.** Of what does the phrase “rest for a few days” speak? What did the defeat of Nicanor in 160 or 161 B.C. mean in terms of coming conflict with Bacchides?

For application

1. **7:5.** Would you characterize Alcimus' desire to become high priest as a noble or an ignoble ambition? What in your opinion turns ambition itself one way or the other? What is your chief ambition in life?
2. **7:11.** Have you ever been approached by someone offering a large prize for a minimal investment? How does such a person try to gain your trust? What should alert you to the possibility of deceit?
3. **7:23.** Look up the articles in the *Catechism* on scandal, referred to in the note for this verse. Why would the conduct of Alcimus be considered scandal? Why is scandal never a private affair? Why is it that, according to some confessors, people will confess sins against every commandment but never the sin of scandal?
4. **7:50.** Why is it that in this life there is never a final victory? In the spiritual life, what victories have you had, and how quickly have they led to further spiritual warfare? What hope is there of final victory?

Chapter 8

For understanding

1. **8:1–16.** What does this positive portrayal of the Romans suggest about the time when 1 Mac was written? By the time of the New Testament, what had Rome become for the Jews? What contrasts between the Romans and the Seleucids were attractive to the Jews? At the same time, with whose expansive tendencies do the Romans' tendencies share parallels, and how would they prove ominous a century later?
2. **8:17–21.** How is Judas' finding it to be lawful to make an alliance with the Romans like what Joshua did with the Gibeonites?
3. **8:23–30.** What is an example of how this treaty closely parallels others between Rome and much smaller powers in this period? What do the similar features include?

For application

1. **8:4.** This verse mentions the patience of the Romans. In the context of the preceding verses, what form would their patience have taken? When you face a long-term goal, what benefit will the virtue of patience be to you?
2. **8:5–12.** How does the expansionism of Rome in this period of its history resemble the expansionism of modern superpowers? What do these superpowers claim as motives for occupying countries remote from their own territory? What limitations does Christian teaching place on the use of military force, according to the *Catechism* (CCC 2308–9)?
3. **8:17–21.** Given his military situation, what benefit does Judas see in creating an alliance with a power so far distant from himself? What influence would he expect an alliance with Rome to have on his enemies? By analogy, what influence would you expect a letter from an attorney threatening legal action to have on a personal adversary?

Chapter 9

For understanding

1. **9:5–6.** What is the state of mind of Judas' troops, even though previously they have won battles against greater odds? Though the text does not provide an explicit cause, what is one proposal?
2. **9:21–22.** What does the death of Judas recall? From what is “How are the mighty fallen” a refrain, and in which book of Scripture do references to a “savior” or “deliverer” commonly appear? Unlike the records of the kings of Judah, which are written in the annals, where are those of Judas recorded?
3. **9:35–42.** What do Jonathan and Simon do in revenge for their brother's capture? What further details does Josephus' recounting of these bleak events provide? With what number does this then correspond, and what law does it fulfill? With the death of John, who are the only remaining sons of Mattathias?

Study Questions

4. **9:54.** What wall does Alcimus set out to tear down, acting in line with whose aims? How were the two courts noted in Scripture, and how was the division marked in Herod's temple? In Acts 21:27–36, why is Paul nearly killed because of it? To which prophets is "work of the prophets" likely a reference? What are two examples of the surprising pattern in Scripture of Satan leading people toward pursuing ends that are similar to God's own, but with impure motives and means that are contrary to God's ways? Nevertheless, what does Alcimus' misguided attempt paradoxically foreshadow?

For application

1. **9:7–10.** Faced by such great odds (800 against 22,000), would you have sided with Judas or with his soldiers? How would you evaluate Judas' determination to fight rather than retreat? In the note for verses 7–22, would you agree or disagree with St. Ambrose's assessment of Judas' fortitude?
2. **9:22.** Even if a biographer is an eyewitness to the life of his subject, why must he select which deeds of the subject to record? How do the writers of the four Gospels select which of Jesus' deeds and sayings to report?
3. **9:27.** Read the note for this verse. What would be the value of prophecy for the Jews at this juncture in their history? What would be the value of prophecy in our own day? What do you think the Lord would say to us in our situation?
4. **9:54.** The note for this verse refers to Eph 2:11–22, which describes how Jesus broke the dividing wall between Jew and Gentile by his own blood. According to the *Catechism*, what are the links between Jews and Christians both then and now (CCC 839)? Despite that, what accounts for the hostility some Christians manifest toward Jews?

Chapter 10

For understanding

1. **10:3–5.** Despite Jonathan's residence being in Michmash rather than Jerusalem, what does Demetrius recognize about Jonathan? What twofold reversal does this mark?
2. **10:20.** After the death of Alcimus (159 B.C.), what evidence is there of a high priest in Jerusalem for this seven-year period? From whose line were high priests traditionally chosen? While not from the traditional high-priestly Oniad family, from which tribe do the Hasmoneans appear to have originated? Who were allowed to wear purple, the royal color?
3. **10:25–45.** To what does Demetrius' letter bear witness? How are the Jews addressed here? What fear might the omission of Jonathan's name from Demetrius' letter reflect?
4. **10:30.** Why might the high rate of taxation have been punitively imposed on the Jewish nation? Which three districts are referred to here? When Demetrius declares them to be annexed from Samaria and added to Judea, with what claim does his decree likely correspond?

For application

1. **10:3–6.** If you were in Jonathan's position, what would you think of Demetrius' offer? Even if you distrusted it, how would you take advantage of it?
2. **10:18–21.** What was there about Alexander's offer that might have caused Jonathan to accept it? Since he was already acting as a civil governor, what did the high priesthood add to his role?
3. **10:25–45.** Demetrius' second offer appears to give the Jews everything they could ever want. How do you weigh the benefits and drawbacks of two competing offers such as these? How do you decide whether an offer is too good to be true?
4. **10:60.** Why would Jonathan go to meet two kings "with pomp"? What may he have hoped to gain by doing so? If you were to face an uncertain reception by an authority figure, how would you present yourself so as to communicate yourself to advantage?

Chapter 11

For understanding

1. **11:13.** Of what importance was Antioch in Syria? What does Josephus relate that the people of Antioch, who had come to detest Alexander, did? After gaining both crowns, what did Ptolemy persuade the people of Antioch to do, and why?
2. **11:16.** How did historians in antiquity refer to Arabia? Of whose flight is this likely the direction, and how may it also correspond with a direction that Paul took?
3. **11:38.** As Diodorus records, who convinced the king to disband his troops? Why would this prove to be a serious political mistake for Demetrius?
4. **11:59.** Who is now confirmed by the Seleucids as the region's official governor? What is the Ladder of Tyre? Of which areas would it have completed Maccabean control?

For application

1. **11:9–12.** Of what value to Ptolemy is a woman like his daughter Cleopatra? What say as to her fate might she have had? What does Ptolemy's offer of his daughter's marriage to Demetrius II say about ancient attitudes toward the institution of marriage itself?
2. **11:23–24.** What was the risk that Jonathan faced by meeting with Demetrius II? What risks do diplomats often face when they meet with dictators or hostile rulers?
3. **11:38.** Why would the soldiers whom Demetrius dismissed from service become hostile to him? Even though the kingdom was at peace, what would the rationale be for maintaining a standing army? What danger would a trained group of soldiers without an income pose to the kingdom?

Chapter 12

For understanding

1. **12:5–18.** What is difficult to assess about this letter and the correspondences found elsewhere in 1 Maccabees (cf. chaps. 8, 13–15)? In either case, how would such letters likely have been originally written?

- 12:7. Where is a record of this letter to the Jews from Arius given, and what does it assert? How is the Jews' connection with Sparta further illustrated in 2 Mac 5:9? To which Onias is the high priestly reference?
- 12:9. To which holy books does the letter most likely refer? According to the prologue of Sirach, what three groupings of books in the Old Testament did Jews recognize?
- 12:31. Who were the Zabadeans? What were Jonathan's reasons for attacking them?

For application

- 12:6. What opening address were you taught to be correct when you compose a letter to a relative or friend? Why address someone as "Dear" if the person has no relationship with you? How would you begin a business letter when you did not know who was to read it?
- 12:11. When you assure others of your prayers on their behalf, how often do you actually pray for them? When others say they are praying for you, do you accept their assurance as fact, or do you dismiss it as a pious thought? Why does the Lord wish us to pray for one another?
- 12:14–17. Since the Jews state in their letter that they have been unwilling to trouble their allies for military assistance because they have received divine aid, what is the point of renewing historic treaties of friendship with Rome and Sparta? Why remind an important friend that he is still a friend?
- 12:43–46. When discussing offenses against the truth, what does the *Catechism* say about flattery and adulation (CCC 2480)? As illustrated in these verses, how can there be indirect flattery? What is the lie involved here?

Chapter 13

For understanding

- 13:17–19. In what way is Simon placed in a nearly impossible situation? What does Simon's fear of the people's judgment force him to do?
- Word Study: Deceitfully (13:17).** What does the Greek word *dolos* mean? What does it summarize in 1 Maccabees? In what wide array of contexts does it arise? If deceit is a defining characteristic of the devil, who speaks his own native tongue when he lies, of whom is honesty a hallmark? How is such, indeed, the case with Mattathias and his sons? To what do the Maccabees thus bear witness?
- 13:27–30. Who attests to monuments with pyramids in Judea? What purpose do the armor and the carved ships placed on the monuments serve? During what period did the memorial stand?
- 13:45–47. How does the siege of Gazara offer a contrast between Jewish and Gentile forces?

For application

- 13:1–6. Have you ever faced a situation where you had to assume leadership because no one else would do it? If so, what were the circumstances? What prompted your decision to step into the leader's role?
- 13:14–19. Consider Simon's dilemma. What were the issues? What would you have done in the situation? Have you ever had to make no-win decisions, and, if so, what was your rationale for what you did?
- 13:25–30. What is the most elaborate burial monument you have ever seen? Why do you think it was built? Why do people build elaborate monuments for themselves and family members? If you had the resources, how would you memorialize your parents and siblings at their grave sites?
- 13:41–42. On what did the Romans base their calendars? On what do Christians base theirs? Although Jews, Muslims, and others do not hold the birth of Jesus with the same regard as Christians, why do they use it as the basis of their calendars?

Chapter 14

For understanding

- 14:12. Of what does Mic 4:4 speak? With what does this blessing correspond, and what hope may it reflect?
- 14:41. With what authority is Simon invested, and what is the significance of this development? Why may this novelty be the reason for the lengthy praise of Simon's deeds? For how long is the authority granted to Simon and his sons presented as continuing?
- Topical Essay: Paul and the Maccabees.** On the one hand, what are some striking parallels between Mattathias and his sons and how Paul describes himself within his "former life in Judaism"? On the other hand, what clues do we have that the case may not be so simple? What other clues are provided within the book of 1 Maccabees itself? How does the identification of Jesus as Israel's promised prophet continue after his Resurrection, and how does Paul echo the testimony? How, then, might we deduce that Paul would have viewed the Maccabees after he encountered Christ on the Damascus road? In short, on what does the distinction between Paul and the Maccabean resistance rest?
- 14:43–44. Of what are the wearing of purple and gold signs? Though neither Simon nor his son John claimed this title for themselves, who did? In the midst of the nation's celebration of Simon, what two subtle points of caution does this text present?

For application

- 14:9. What is the difference between what old and young men treasure in peacetime? For example, why do old men talk of good things, and young men celebrate the glory of war when the land is at peace? In our day, how do the aged and the youth differ in their views of society?
- 14:25–26. What is the value for a community of publicly honoring its chief citizens? In our culture, how is honor customarily shown?
- 14:41. The note for this verse says that combining religious and political authority in the high priest had not been official policy in Israel. What are the advantages of combining civil and religious authority in such a personage? What are the dangers, both to religion and to political needs? How are these advantages and disadvantages reflected in Church history?

Study Questions

4. **14:48–49.** Where are the founding documents of our central government stored? Although we have the ability to make numerous copies of our constitution, why is it important for us to preserve the original? Since we have no original manuscripts of the Bible, how do we know we have a trustworthy version of the Scriptures?

Chapter 15

For understanding

1. **15:6.** What advantage does the privilege of minting their own coinage grant the Jews?
2. **15:27.** With his opposition subdued, what example does Antiochus VII follow?
3. **15:31.** How much money does Antiochus demand? How does this amount compare with the 300 talents promised by Jonathan to Demetrius II in return for release from tribute?
4. **15:33–35.** To what law does Simon appeal?

For application

1. **15:1–9.** The note for verse 9 says that Antiochus' promise is the same as one made to the Jews by his brother Demetrius II, which was broken. What does the expression "once burned, twice shy" mean to you? If you received a guarantee from a person or an organization that had previously reneged, how would you regard it?
2. **15:16–24.** What seems to have been the purpose of this communication from the Roman consul? Since the letter addresses King Demetrius, and Antiochus is the king's brother, what attention does Antiochus appear to have paid to it? What role might it have played in turning Antiochus against Simon (v. 27)?
3. **15:33–35.** To what does the Church's Code of Canon Law apply? To what does civil law apply? If you were defending the Church in a dispute with the civil government, to which code of law would you appeal? If the latter, how would you use the law to protect the Church's interests?

Chapter 16

For understanding

1. **16:2–3.** Whom does Simon commission to fight for the nation? How many years have now passed since Mattathias' initial revolt, and how old would Simon be?
2. **16:6–10.** What does this passage show about John? How does John show it?
3. **16:23–24.** Of what does this brief summary assure the reader regarding John? What does the reference to the chronicles of John's high priesthood recall?

For application

1. **16:2–3.** When did you first realize that, as an adult, you were responsible for not only your own life but that of your family? How did that realization strike you? What were some of the responsibilities you took upon yourself?
2. **16:6.** What is your philosophy of leadership? As a leader, what are some of the best ways you can use to encourage subordinates to follow your directions? What is "servant leadership"?
3. **16:23–24.** If you have ever thought of writing an autobiography, what would be its purpose? How, for example, might it be of use to your children or other family members? What sort of information would you put in it, and how would you decide which details to omit?

STUDY QUESTIONS

2 Maccabees

Chapter 1

For understanding

1. **1:9.** In accordance with Lev 23, how and when was the Feast of Booths (or Tabernacles) celebrated? As a harvest celebration that also became a great commemoration of the Temple, when was it renewed and under whose leadership? For what feast did this celebration become the model, and how was it celebrated? Following some variant readings, what does the reference to 164 B.C. commemorate and with reference to what other date?
2. **1:18–2:15.** What does the lengthy portion of this letter recount? Why is the appeal to an array of scriptural figures—Nehemiah, Jeremiah, Solomon, Moses—essential?
3. **1:18.** How does the Greek text literally read, and to what feast does it most likely refer? To what does the fire refer? For what is this memory foundational? What prompts commentators to speculate as to why the author of 2 Maccabees credits Nehemiah with constructing the Temple and altar? Where else are similar identifications of Nehemiah as the Temple's builder found? Within the context of 2 Maccabees, why would it seem that Nehemiah's role as a builder is emphasized? To what other parallels is this added?
4. **1:31–33.** How does Christian interpretation view this mysterious fire-water? How does St. Ambrose interpret this fire-water symbol in the light of Baptism?

For application

1. **1:1–5.** If you became aware that a group of Christians in Iraq were in a precarious situation such as imminent persecution, what would you say to encourage them in their faith? How might this introduction serve as a model?
2. **1:18–2:15.** The note for these verses states that they provide the rationale for establishing a new feast not prescribed in the Torah. Aside from Christmas and Easter, what are some important feasts that the Church has established? What do they commemorate? Why devote several feasts to various aspects of the lives of Jesus and Mary or of John the Baptist and St. Paul?
3. **1:22.** What fire does the Feast of Pentecost celebrate? What does the association of fire with the Holy Spirit mean? How does one obtain that fire?

Chapter 2

For understanding

1. **2:1.** Though this narrative is not present in the canonical book of Jeremiah, what action of Jeremiah/Baruch do several early Jewish sources discuss? On what does Eupolemus, a Jewish historian contemporary with the Maccabees, also comment? Why did Jeremiah hold a distinct significance for Jews in Egypt?
2. **2:7.** What hope is the focal point of this second letter, and with what is it linked? For what does the inclusion of Jeremiah's testimony about the future reappearance of the ark and God's glory serve as an encouragement? What desire may these "gathering" references indicate? While little testimony survives from this period, what feast do we know that Jesus observed?
3. **Word Study: Appearances (2:21).** What does the Greek word *epiphaneia* mean, and for what English word is it the source? What can this word be used to describe? How is the second sense of *epiphaneia*, common in 2 Maccabees, employed? Why did Antiochus give himself the nickname Epiphanes? Throughout 2 Maccabees, how are the wicked plans of this "God Manifest" countered? How is this theme in 2 Maccabees further developed in the Gospel of John?
4. **2:23–32.** Where do we find the closest scriptural parallel to the author's account of his own writing? What was the effect of God's inspiration? What Church teaching about the authors of Scripture did Vatican II reaffirm?

For application

1. **2:2–3.** Immigrants from other countries are usually expected to assimilate to the prevailing culture, as were European immigrants to United States in the last century. What are the advantages of assimilation for them? From a religious perspective, what are the disadvantages of assimilation? How can immigrants adapt to the new culture and still retain their religious beliefs?
2. **2:7–8.** What do you expect will happen at the Last Judgment, when God gathers his people together for the revelation of his sons? What will it reveal that now remains hidden (CCC 1038–41)?
3. **2:19–22.** The story of the Maccabees against the Seleucids is presented as a war between two personal antagonists. In reality, what might be said of most people, those in the middle who joined neither side? Whom might they have favored? How might they have tried to avoid committing themselves to either side? In today's secular culture, who are the antagonists? What does Jesus say about the effort to avoid taking sides (cf. Mk 8:34–38)?
4. **2:24–32.** Have you ever had to present information to an audience? What was your purpose? What background research did you have to do? With what intent or according to what schema did you organize your material? How successful was your presentation?

Chapter 3

For understanding

1. **3:5.** Who is Apollonius of Tarsus? As what province are Coele-syria and Phoenecia also known, and what area did it include? What is the term Coele-syria also used more narrowly to describe?
2. **3:7.** Who is Heliodorus, and how is he identified by the Greek historian Appian? What did archaeologists at Tell Maresha in Judea discover about him? Bearing the date of 178 B.C., what did the stele detail?

Study Questions

- 3:11. What is known from the Jewish historian Josephus about Hyrcanus, son of Tobias? What context can help readers understand the value of four hundred talents of silver and two hundred of gold?
- 3:39. What is the significance of the statement in this verse? What principle does Heliodorus' unsuccessful invasion establish, and what does it have to do with the Temple's later desecration under Antiochus?

For application

- 3:4–6. When you have a disagreement with a religious or spiritual authority, how do you resolve it? What do you do if there is no one higher in authority to whom to appeal? How appropriate is it to appeal to an outside source?
- 3:25. How does this figure resemble St. Michael the Archangel? What is the usual role of this archangel? Do you ever recite the prayer to St. Michael? If so, when?
- 3:26. In the New Testament, when do two strong young men make their appearance (cf. Lk 24:4)? To whom do they appear, and what do they do? According to the *Catechism*, what is the role of angels in the life of the Church (CCC 334–36)?
- 3:38. Where are some locations where one might experience the power of God's presence? Have you ever experienced such an encounter? If so, what did it teach you about God's love and mercy toward you?

Chapter 4

For understanding

- 4:9. Rather than enrolling the men of Jerusalem as citizens in the far-off Seleucid capital of Antioch, what would this proposal have meant? Into what would Jerusalem have been made?
- 4:12. What kind of institution was a Greek gymnasium? What was the citadel? What was a Greek hat?
- 4:18. Though called the quadrennial games, what were they literally? How did the Greek system of counting years make the games equivalent to quadrennial? By whom were the games inaugurated?
- 4:23–25. As whom is Menelaus here presented, and why would he be unqualified for the high priesthood? However, what ancestry do some manuscripts of 3:4 offer in place of Benjamin? How does Josephus' later testimony complicate the issue even more? While a conclusive solution is not possible at present, how is the Septuagint's reading of "Benjamin" here taken?

For application

- 4:1. Against which commandment is the sin of slander or calumny an offense? What virtues does this offense oppose? What does slander do to one against whom it is directed (CCC 2477, 2479)? How can social media contribute to the spread of slander?
- 4:4–6. According to Mt 18:15–17, what procedure should one follow to resolve a dispute with a fellow Christian? Why not have recourse to the highest authority as the first step rather than the last?
- 4:7–9. What is simony, and why is it a sin? According to the *Catechism*, why is it "impossible to appropriate to oneself spiritual goods and behave toward them as their owner or master" (CCC 2118, 2121)?
- 4:13–14. What is the likely influence on subordinates when their leader either neglects his duties or positively disregards them? For example, if a religious leader such as a bishop were to become secularized and use Church goods for his own benefit, how intent on the performance of their ministries are his priests likely to be? Considering his influence on the priesthood, what sin might the bishop be committing?

Chapter 5

For understanding

- 5:19. Similarly to this maxim, what does Christ teach regarding why the Lord gives institutions? Just as the Sabbath is created for man, rather than man for the Sabbath, for whose sake is the Temple made?
- 5:21. How was the tremendous sum of eighteen hundred talents likely generated? To whom is the allusion of sailing on land and walking on the sea made? In a famous passage, of what does Xerxes' uncle warn him, and to whom else does this warning apply?
- 5:22. In what way are Antiochus' actions described in the same terms as Pharaoh's? Who is Philip, the Phrygian?
- 5:27. By taking refuge in the wilderness, whose pattern are Judas and his companions following? Rather than eat unclean food, how do Judas and his friends sustain themselves?

For application

- 5:2–3. When confronted with a heavenly apparition or a private revelation, what principles should one use to determine whether it is true or false? To what sources might one go to locate or clarify these principles?
- 5:12–14. What are some of the names we give to the wanton killing of large numbers of people? Why are we appalled at the murder of even one innocent human being? If that is so, how are we to respond to wholesale slaughters of entire communities?
- 5:19. Read the note for this verse. Applying the same teaching, why are attendance at Mass on Sundays and holy days as well as certain penitential seasons mandated?
- 5:21. Is it always the case that pride goes before a fall (cf. Prov 16:18)? What does Paul mean when he warns Christians who think they are standing to beware of falling (1 Cor 10:12)?

Chapter 6

For understanding

- 6:1. Who is the Athenian senator referred to here? Why was Antiochus' compulsion to suppress the Jewish way of life unusual? How did Antiochus likely see Torah observance?

2. **6:12–17.** Which one of the book's central themes does the author make explicit? Where else in Scripture does this biblical principle appear?
3. **6:19.** What is the rack? How does Heb 11:35 allude to this event?
4. **6:24.** For whom did Eleazar's testimony become an example? With what strikingly similar language does the martyr Polycarp reply to the Roman proconsul?

For application

1. **6:6.** In our society, how dangerous is it for one to profess himself a Christian? If it is not currently dangerous, why do some Christians hide not only the profession but the practice of their faith? What does Scripture say about the consequences of being ashamed of the faith (cf. Mt 5:13; 10:32)?
2. **6:12–17.** According to the text of these verses, what is the Lord's motive for disciplining his people? According to the Book of Hebrews, why does he administer discipline (Heb 12:4–10)? How do you respond to setbacks, hardships, desolations, or other forms of divine discipline?
3. **6:24–25.** Why does Eleazar refuse to pretend to cooperate with his tormentors? What sin is he trying to avoid? To what lengths are you prepared to go to avoid committing this same sin?
4. **6:31.** What kind of example does the martyrdom of Christians give to the Church? What thought have you given to the possibility of your own martyrdom? How is living an exemplary Christian life in ordinary circumstances a kind of martyrdom?

Chapter 7

For understanding

1. **7:1.** Of whom is no mention made in this account? How does St. Cyprian explain this omission? Although the text does not identify the location of these events, where does evidence from early reception suggest they took place? As what kind of food does the Torah list pigs? While *4 Maccabees* 8, 25, testifies that the Law of Moses would not have condemned the brothers to death for this violation, why did they choose to lose their lives?
2. **Topical Essay: Resurrection in the Old Testament.** What evidence is there to support the claim that the Old Testament presents no clear vision of life after death? What are some definite exceptions to this rule, however? While commentators rightly point out that some resurrection passages, particularly those in Ezekiel and Isaiah, serve as analogies for what will happen when the nation of Israel is restored from exile, how does this very point serve to demonstrate the existence of some notion of physical resurrection in these contexts? Why can we regard the Old Testament's testimony on the resurrection as well represented by the conflict between the Sadducees and Pharisees in Acts 23:6–8?
3. **7:28.** To which doctrine does the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* cite the mother's testimony in this passage as a witness? As the *Catechism* states, what follows from this doctrine?
4. **7:38.** How is the martyrs' hope that their suffering will bring an end to God's wrath fulfilled? Of what does 2 Mac 7 offer perhaps the clearest example before the advent of Christ? Like the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53, what does the suffering of these righteous representatives of Israel serve to elicit, and for what does it provide atonement? When was the belief that the sufferings of the righteous could bring atonement for others made familiar? While the sacrifices of these martyrs and Christ are similar in kind but infinitely distinct in degree, what did the faithfulness of these martyrs accomplish? What appeal to the same principle does Paul make in Gal 3?

For application

1. **7:1–2.** Do you have any religious emblems (crucifixes, bibles, icons, etc.) around your home? If these were outlawed under severe penalties for their possession, what would you do with them? To what lengths would you go to protect them and continue their use?
2. **7:7–8.** St. Dominic Savio had as his personal motto, "Death rather than sin". To what lengths are you willing to go to maintain moral purity in your life? Or what compromises are you willing to make to preserve your life?
3. **7:28–29.** What impresses you about the creative power of God? What moves him to create? Of all the persons he could have created, why did he create you?
4. **7:36.** Read Jn 3:13–16, 36. What is your understanding of the eternal life that Jesus promises? When does it begin? How is it completed?

Chapter 8

For understanding

1. **8:11.** What did the very low price for slaves possibly indicate about Nicanor? What would setting the price this low do to the slave market?
2. **8:19.** Because Sennacherib's Assyrian empire covered a territory similar to that of the Seleucid empire in the time of the Maccabees, how did it serve as a natural analogy in the eyes of the Jewish resistance? What blueprint does God's defeat of Sennacherib's army against all expectations in 701 B.C. provide for them?
3. **8:26.** What does the author highlight in this verse, and in contrast to what?
4. **8:30.** Who is Timothy? Killed at the end of chap. 10, how can Timothy then reappear at the beginning of chap. 12? Who is Bacchides, and what is he attested to have done in 1 Maccabees?

For application

1. **8:2–4.** This prayer lists seven evils from which the faithful Jews need deliverance. When praying for help, why list the troubles you face? According to Jesus, what seems to motivate the Lord to act (cf. Mt 9:22; Mk 10:52; Lk 8:50)?
2. **8:10.** Although selling human beings into slavery has been outlawed in this country, it is still practiced here. What forms does it take? What makes enslaving other people such an abominable crime?
3. **8:18.** According to Ps 20:7–8, ancient armies trusted in horses and chariots for military strength. What are the modern equivalents of such equipment? The psalm praises those of faith who place their trust in the Lord. Why is it still necessary for people of faith to trust in him rather than in armies?

Study Questions

Chapter 9

For understanding

1. **9:1–29.** Where else is Antiochus' demise narrated? With what slightly varying details do these accounts report similar stories? In keeping with the author's stated aim of making the material easy to memorize (2:25), what kind of organization may these narratives reflect?
2. **9:4.** What judgment of heaven finds its fulfillment here? What does Antiochus' promise include?
3. **9:17.** After making it unlawful to confess to be a Jew in 6:6, what does Antiochus now vow? What is the meaning of "Jew" in this context?
4. **9:18.** If the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective (Jas 5:16), what qualities characterize the prayer of wicked Antiochus? How is Antiochus' dubious sincerity illustrated?

For application

1. **9:8.** While this verse drips with sarcasm regarding Antiochus, what person is actually able to command the waves of the sea and weigh the mountains in a balance? When Jesus commanded the waves and the sea, what was the disciples' reaction (cf. Mt 8:27; Mk 4:41)?
2. **9:11.** Although broken in spirit, how much of his arrogance did Antiochus actually relinquish? When the Lord allows a person's spirit to be broken, what is his purpose? According to Ps 51:17, upon what kind of spirit does the Lord look favorably?
3. **9:13–17.** What is Antiochus attempting to do with his vow? Have you ever tried to bargain with God to give you some benefit or relieve you of some problem? What does God look for in those who pray to him?
4. **9:27.** What is the irony in this verse? What ironies often lie hidden in the promises of politicians, whether intentionally or not?

Chapter 10

For understanding

1. **10:3.** How does the Greek read literally, and to what do some translations speculate these words may refer? What is a more natural referent? Now, at the Temple's second rededication, for what do these stones become the source? While both 1 and 2 Maccabees report that the Temple was profaned and rededicated on the same date, the 25th of Chislev, what is the difference in years between these two books, and why is this surprising? To what is the difference likely due?
2. **10:6.** How is this festival, which becomes known as Hanukkah (meaning "dedication"), here celebrated? Just as the Feast of Booths (= Tabernacles) was meant to bring to the Israelites' remembrance of their time spent in the wilderness after their deliverance from Egypt, how does this new feast use booths?
3. **10:7.** Formerly forced to wear ivy in honor of Dionysus, how do Jews now use it?
4. **10:20.** To what was a drachma roughly equivalent, and to what would the total of seventy thousand drachmas amount?

For application

1. **10:1–4.** In the dedication or rededication of a church, the building and its altar are sprinkled with holy water, anointed with chrism, and incensed. What is the significance of using sacred chrism, especially on the altar? The incensing of the altar signifies the pleasing nature of Christ's sacrifice; what does the incensing of the nave of the church signify?
2. **10:6.** How long does the celebration of Christmas last? For how many days do Christians celebrate Easter? What feast concludes the Easter celebration? How similar are these feasts to the Jewish feasts of Hanukkah, Passover, and Pentecost (Shavuot)?
3. **10:13.** Against what commandment is suicide an offense? How does it offend love of neighbor? What factors can diminish the responsibility for one who commits suicide (CCC 2281–82)?
4. **10:20–23.** Under the rules of most armies, commanders may execute those under their command for a variety of serious reasons. What are some of them? Since these executions are usually public, what is their purpose? How do they accord with the fifth commandment?

Chapter 11

For understanding

1. **11:1.** For what manifestation does Lysias' self-confidence and pride in attacking Judea set the stage? With what do the events in this section appear to correspond? If so, how would the author likely be organizing the series of events?
2. **11:3.** While the Jewish high priesthood was traditionally hereditary and kept for the priest's lifetime, what would its sale have made the high priest?
3. **11:32.** How does the nature of this letter as genuine correspondence from the Seleucids seem to be confirmed?
4. **11:33.** Of what significance is the date of Xanthicus the fifteenth? In any case, what theological significance may these dates hold?

For application

1. **11:3.** What would happen to the Church if the papacy were for sale to the highest bidder or if a political power were to impose a candidate? What protections have recent popes placed on the conclave to prevent such abuses from happening? Why do conclaves begin with the invocation to the Holy Spirit?
2. **11:6–8.** What is the Catholic doctrine concerning guardian angels? How have angels intervened in human history (cf. CCC 331–36)? What is the role of the Archangel Michael (cf. Dan 10:13; 12:1)?
3. **11:15.** How does the *Catechism*, quoting *Gaudium et Spes*, define what the common good is? What are its essential elements, and what are the responsibilities of authorities with respect to them (CCC 1906–9)? To what is the common good always ordered, and on what is it founded (CCC 1912)?

Chapter 12

For understanding

1. **12:15.** What war machines did Hellenistic-era warfare include? Like the miraculous toppling of the walls of Jericho in Josh 6:1–21, with what does God's aid provide the Jews?
2. **12:29.** Where is Scythopolis, also known as Beth-shan? In contrast with Joppa, Jamnia, and the succeeding towns in chap. 12, how do the citizens of Scythopolis regard the Jews? As a result, what do Judas' forces have to offer them, and what does that show?
3. **Topical Essay: Second Maccabees and the Canon of Scripture.** Why would "2 Maccabees 12" provide a quick and easy answer to why Protestant Bibles are shorter than Catholic ones? What in Martin Luther's opinion did the abuse of collections being taken on behalf of the dead appear to have produced? For Luther, what more dramatic solution to the problem was found? Why did such a move seem necessary to Luther and, similarly, to Calvin? While the reformers were correct that St. Jerome and certain other Fathers, following the general practice of Jews after Christ's time, regarded books like 2 Maccabees as holding a lower status, how was the broader Old Testament canon found in the Greek Septuagint followed in the early Church? While the potential for abuses was recognized on the Catholic side as well as the Protestant side, what doctrine did the Church uphold, and how did she regard the canonicity of Scripture?
4. **12:44–45.** For whom did the practice of praying for the dead, here attested by Jews over a century before Christ, become common as well? How does St. Augustine's treatise *On the Care of the Dead* begin? In his dispute with Vincentius Victor's claim that the sacrifice of the Eucharist can be offered for the unbaptized dead, how does Augustine counter? What famous story of early Christian prayers for the dead is found with the example of Perpetua, who was martyred around A.D. 202? According to St. John Chrysostom, why should Christians pray for the dead?

For application

1. **12:3–6.** What Old Testament principle does Judas follow in taking revenge on Joppa for the murder of two hundred Jews (cf. Ex 21:23; Lev 24:19–20)? How do you think modern Christians would respond to such an incident?
2. **12:8–9.** Would you consider Judas' nighttime attack on Jamnia an offensive or a defensive operation? Granted that nations have a right to legitimate defense, according to the "just war" doctrine, what is the moral legitimacy of a preemptive strike?
3. **12:40.** What is the morality of carrying with you some good luck charm such as a rabbit's foot? How do you interpret the *Catechism's* definition of superstition, particularly the last sentence (CCC 2111)? What might be some examples of using sacramentals in a superstitious manner?
4. **12:43–45.** Why does the Church refer to those in Purgatory as "*holy souls*"? Do you ever pray for them?

Chapter 13

For understanding

1. **13:1–26.** What period does this section cover? Why do the figures of the Seleucid armies vary between the accounts?
2. **13:5.** How high are fifty cubits? What fascinating parallel between Menelaus and wicked Haman does this create?
3. **13:8.** What principle in the Book of Wisdom does the death of Menelaus illustrate?

For application

1. **13:8.** Look up Wis 11:16. What examples can you think of to illustrate this principle (hint: how overindulgence in food negatively affects one's health)? How has this principle shown itself in your own experience?
2. **13:10–12.** What kind of preparation does Judas make in these verses as he and all Judea face this military threat? For the devout Christian facing a difficult situation, why should prayer be the first step taken? What danger might be inherent in deciding to skip prayer and act first?
3. **13:21.** What crime against the Jews did Rhodocus commit? In the military, what would be the normal punishment for such a crime?

Chapter 14

For understanding

1. **14:3.** Who was Alcimus, and what claim did he have to win the support of the more traditionally minded Jews? When might Alcimus have taken this role, and with whose confirmation being required?
2. **14:6.** Who do commentators say the Hasideans were? What does their name mean, and how are they related to the Esenes and Pharisees? When Alcimus acquires the high priesthood at this point in the narrative in 1 Maccabees, what happens to the Hasideans?
3. **14:24–30.** What description is absent from the parallel account in 1 Mac 7? What may explain why, out of all the Jews' enemies in this period, only Nicanor's death is commemorated as a national holiday? What analogy from American history illustrates this?
4. **Topical Essay: The Death of Razis.** What interpretative questions does the death of Razis present? First, what is the answer regarding the question of whether Razis' death was martyrdom or suicide? Second, although the author regards him as a hero of the nation, how does the description of his death fall far short of the praises given to the prior martyrdoms of Eleazar and the mother and seven brothers? Third, how do interpreters such as St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas explain how this text cannot be used as a theological pretext for presenting suicide as martyrdom? In summary, how is the Christian reader to understand the ambiguous nature of Razis' death?

For application

1. **14:3–4.** Statesmen frequently offer gifts to one another upon their first meeting. If you wished to make a presentation to a new superior but were uncertain of your reception, how might you obtain a favorable hearing? For example, what would you try to learn about the superior before your meeting?

Study Questions

2. **14:6–10.** Note how Alcimus replies to the king's request for information. What misinformation does he provide regarding Judas and even about himself? When you encounter misinformation calculated to undermine the faith, how can you counter it?
3. **14:28.** Have you ever been ordered by a higher authority to renege on an agreement you have just made and to do the opposite? If so, what moral or ethical problems did the order raise for you? What did you do in response? Afterward, what second thoughts did you have about your response?
4. **14:37–46.** Read the essay *The Death of Razis*, especially the next-to-last paragraph. Using these criteria, how would you evaluate the death of King Saul (1 Sam 31:4)? How would St. Thomas' dictum ("without consent of the mind, there is no stain on the body") apply to victims of abuse such as rape?

Chapter 15

For understanding

1. **15:14.** How powerful does Jeremiah's intercession seem to have been for the nation? Why does Origen of Alexandria appeal to Jeremiah in this passage as evidence of saints' prayers after their death?
2. **15:25–26.** As St. John Chrysostom observes, what does the contrast between the bombast of the Seleucids and the prayers of the Maccabees demonstrate?
3. **15:36.** As with the purification of the Temple and subsequent festival in 10:8, how does the book close? How is Mordecai's day also known?
4. **15:38.** Although the author speaks frankly about his efforts and his limitations as a storyteller, how aware is he of being divinely inspired? What does the Catholic doctrine of biblical inspiration teach?

For application

1. **15:7.** When have you most needed help from the Lord? How hard was it for you to maintain your trust in such a difficult situation? How did you stir up confidence in him?
2. **15:14.** If Jesus is the one Mediator between God and man, why do Catholics pray to saints? To which saint do you most frequently pray? What attracts you to him or her?
3. **15:17.** Whom do you know who is the most effective in encouraging others to persevere in confidence or effort? How does this person do it? What encouragement have you drawn from this person? How have you worked to encourage others when their confidence flags?
4. **15:38.** What is your understanding of the historical reliability of the Gospels? How important is it for the doctrine of biblical inspiration that the Gospels be historically reliable? Have you devoted any time to studying the subject? How does their reliability influence your faith?

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

THE OLD TESTAMENT (OT)

Gen	Genesis
Ex	Exodus
Lev	Leviticus
Num	Numbers
Deut	Deuteronomy
Josh	Joshua
Judg	Judges
Ruth	Ruth
1 Sam	1 Samuel
2 Sam	2 Samuel
1 Kings	1 Kings
2 Kings	2 Kings
1 Chron	1 Chronicles
2 Chron	2 Chronicles
Ezra	Ezra
Neh	Nehemiah
Tob	Tobit
Jud	Judith
Esther	Esther
Job	Job
Ps	Psalms
Prov	Proverbs
Eccles	Ecclesiastes
Song	Song of Solomon
Wis	Wisdom
Sir	Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)
Is	Isaiah
Jer	Jeremiah
Lam	Lamentations
Bar	Baruch
Ezek	Ezekiel
Dan	Daniel
Hos	Hosea
Joel	Joel
Amos	Amos
Obad	Obadiah
Jon	Jonah
Mic	Micah
Nahum	Nahum
Hab	Habakkuk
Zeph	Zephaniah
Hag	Haggai
Zech	Zechariah
Mal	Malachi
1 Mac	1 Maccabees
2 Mac	2 Maccabees

THE NEW TESTAMENT (NT)

Mt	Matthew
Mk	Mark
Lk	Luke
Jn	John
Acts	Acts of the Apostles
Rom	Romans
1 Cor	1 Corinthians
2 Cor	2 Corinthians
Gal	Galatians
Eph	Ephesians
Phil	Philippians
Col	Colossians
1 Thess	1 Thessalonians
2 Thess	2 Thessalonians
1 Tim	1 Timothy
2 Tim	2 Timothy
Tit	Titus
Philem	Philemon
Heb	Hebrews
Jas	James
1 Pet	1 Peter
2 Pet	2 Peter
1 Jn	1 John
2 Jn	2 John
3 Jn	3 John
Jude	Jude
Rev	Revelation (Apocalypse)