



Yosef / Joseph had a G-d given dream and calling.
 [What is your calling?]



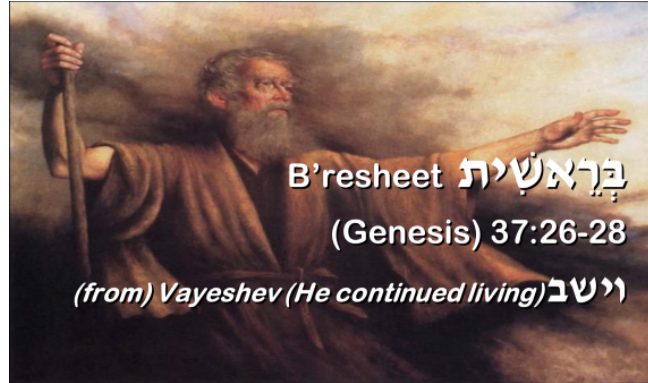
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Ber/Gen 37.18-20 **Now they saw him from a distance. Before he was close to them they plotted together against him in order to kill him. They said to one another, “Here comes the master of dreams! Come**

on now! Let's kill him and throw him into one of those pits, so we can say that an evil animal devoured him. Then let's see what becomes of his dreams."

[What is the dream G-d has given you? The hope, the passion, what gets you going, stirs your blood?]



B'resheet (Genesis) 37:26

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה אֶל-אֶחָיו מִה-פָּצַע כִּי נַהַרְג אֶת-אֶחָינוּ וְכִסִּינוּ אֶת-דָּמוֹ:

Y'hudah said to his brothers, "What advantage is it to us if we kill our brother and cover up his blood?"

B'resheet (Genesis) 37:27

לָכוּ וּנְמַכְרֵנוּ לַיִּשְׁמַעֲאֵלִים וְיִדְנֵנוּ אֶל-יְהִיבֹו כִּי-אֶחָינוּ בְּשַׂרְנוּ הוּא וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ אֶחָיו:

Come, let's sell him to the Yishma'elim, instead of putting him to death with our own hands. After all, he is our brother, our own flesh." His brothers paid attention to him.

B'resheet (Genesis) 37:28

וַיַּעֲבְרוּ אַנְשֵׁים מִדִּינָיִם סְחָרִים וַיִּמְשְׁכוּ וַיַּעֲלוּ אֶת-יוֹסֵף מִן-הַבּוֹר

So when the Midyanim, merchants, passed by, they drew and lifted Yosef up out of the cistern

B'resheet (Genesis) 37:28

וַיִּמְכְּרוּ אֶת-יוֹסֵף לַיִּשְׁמַעֲאֵלִים בַּעֲשָׂרִים כֶּסֶף וַיָּבִיאוּ אֶת-יוֹסֵף מִצְרָיִמָה:

and sold Yosef for half a pound of silver shekels to the Yishma'elim, who took Yosef on to Egypt.

In Egypt Yosef was

1. A household slave
2. An incarcerated sex offender
3. A distress adviser to Pharaoh
4. Prime Minister to Pharaoh!!



In G-d's economy, what seems to stop our dreams is what fulfills them ... if we respond right.
[What is your dream? What is hindering it?]

T'hilim/Ps 105.17-19 Yosef...was sold as a slave. They shackled his feet with chains, and they bound him in irons; until the time when his word proved true, God's utterance kept testing him.

Refined him בְּרִזְלֵי בָּאֵה נִפְשׁוֹ. עַד-עַתָּה בְּאֵ-דְבָרוֹ-אֲמַרְתָּ יְיָ צְרַפְתָּהוּ.

In G-d's economy, what seems to stop our dreams is what fulfills them ... if we respond right.
[What is your dream? What is hindering it?]

Two criteria for right response:

- **Commitment** to vision
- **Gratitude & Joy** in the pursuit

Task joy, relational joy!

[Resurrection power of Yeshua and the Ruakh to accomplish!]

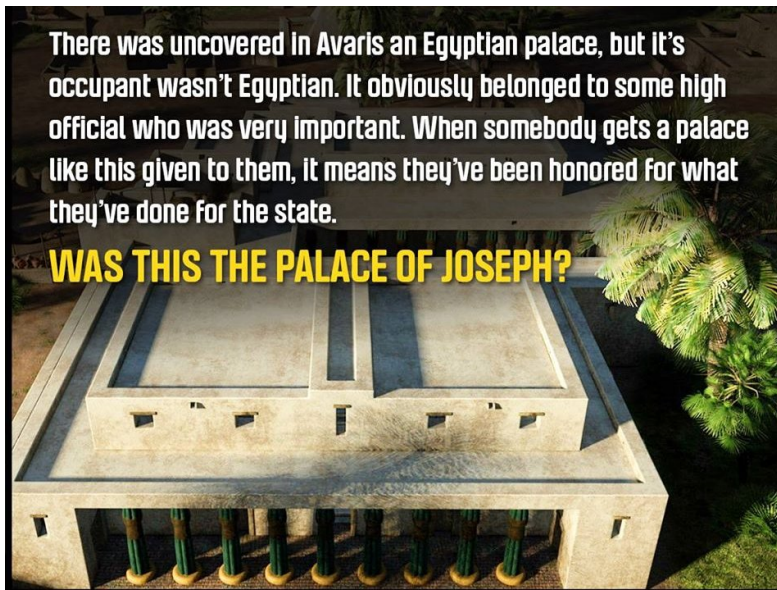
Send me a testimony of praise, thanksgiving]

Historical affirmation of scripture from Timothy Mahoney: *Pattern of Evidence*



There was uncovered in Avaris an Egyptian palace, but its occupant wasn't Egyptian. It obviously belonged to some high official who was very important. When somebody gets a palace like this given to them, it means they've been honored for what they've done for the state.

WAS THIS THE PALACE OF JOSEPH?



[https://www.google.com/search?q=tomb+of+joseph+tim+Mahoney&safe=active&tbm=isch&source=iu&ictx=1&fir=wni6c7UZ458vjM%253A%252CbDhm2pDTiV0SbM%252C_&usg=AI4_-kQamri0K3fEJkZ0qjImDsUEqx92Jg&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjj6sPGkf3eAhUDyYMKHagHBk4Q9QEwCXoECAUQBg#imgrc=0zIOBIAbuZ-luM:]

Timothy Mahoney



They call it a "mushroom" hairdo and it's specifically related to non-Egyptians from the area of ancient Canaan/Israel. Interestingly, it's quite the "do", and the Talmud goes out of its way to tell us that Joseph was quite the fashionista (Gen Rab, 87:3).

In fact, the Rabbinic *Midrash Tanhuma Vayyesheb*⁸ specifically talks about Joseph curling his hair. The statue was found in a layer corresponding to the year c. 1,700 BCE.

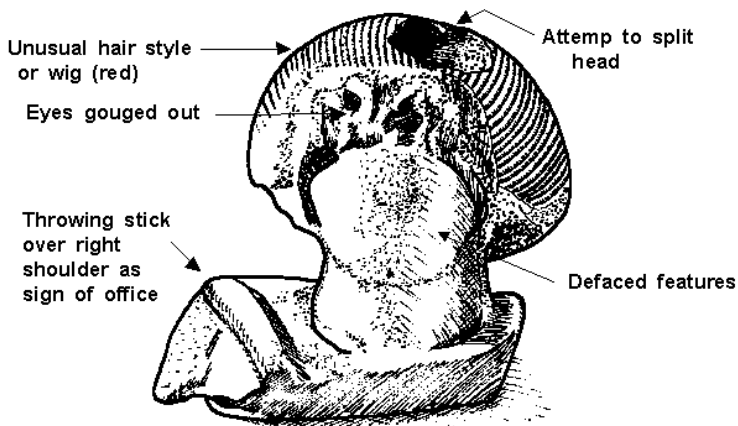
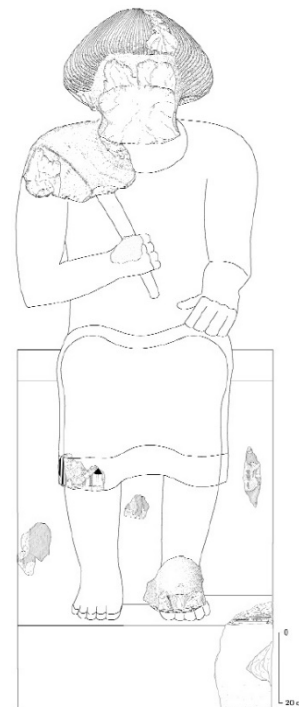


Fig. 3. Is this the damaged head of Joseph's statue?



[<https://www.google.com/search?q=tomb+of+joseph+tim+Mahoney&safe=active&tbm=isch&source=iu&ictx=1&fir=wni6c7UZ458vjM%253A%252Cb>]

Reconstruction]



Tomb of Yosef in Avaris?

[<https://www.google.com/search?q=tomb+of+joseph+tim+Mahoney&safe=active&tbm=isch&source=iu&ictx=1&fir=wni6c7UZ458vjM%253A%252Cb>

Reconstruction]

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Setback → step-up

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Send me a testimony of praise, thanksgiving]

Summarized

Story of Hanukkah

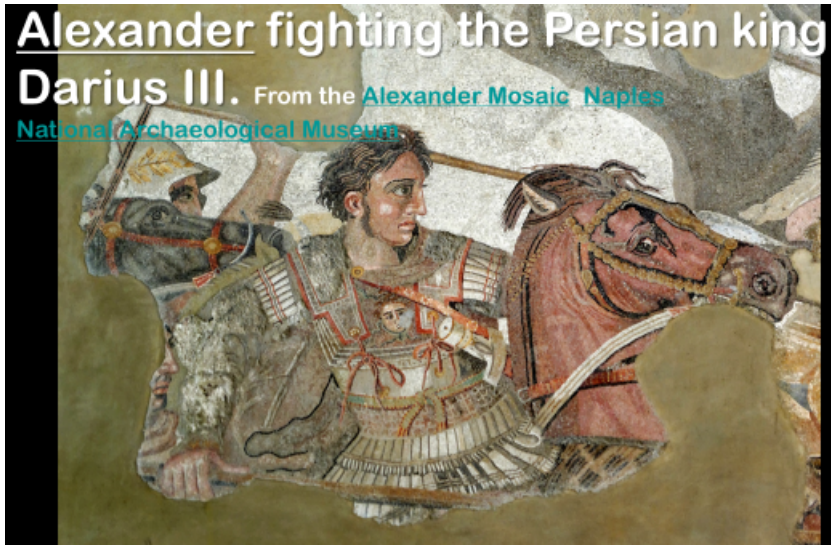
And how this relates to theme of

Setback → step-up

[Some verses in Daniel that you may never have considered]

Alexander fighting the Persian king

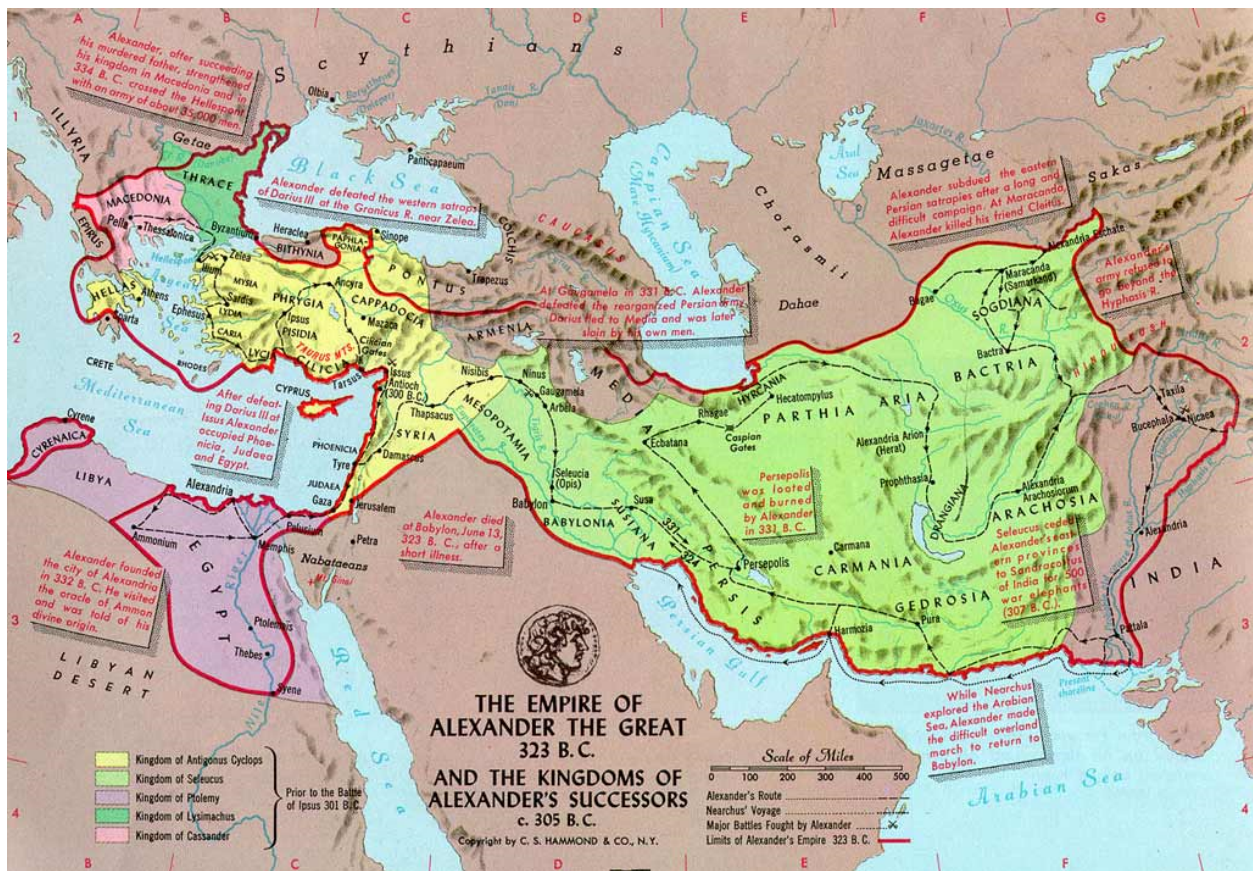
Darius III. From the [Alexander Mosaic](#), Naples National Archaeological Museum



[Alexander fighting the Persian king Darius III. From the Alexander Mosaic, Naples National Archaeological Museum.]



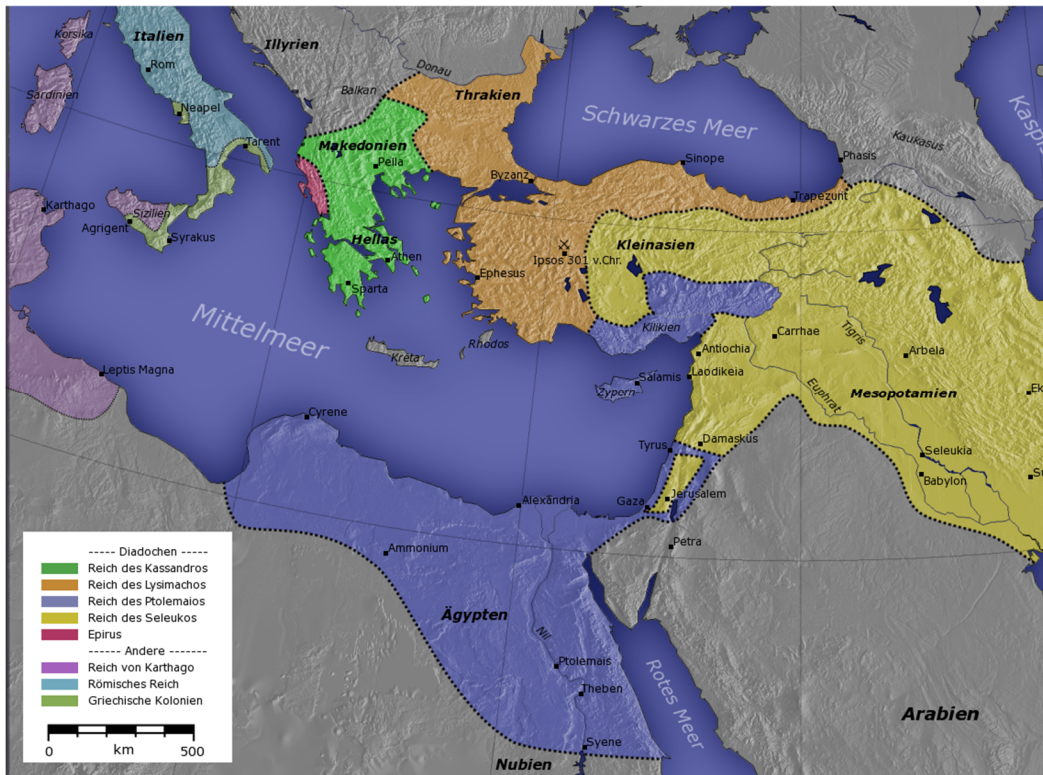
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[Zoom in on Israel ...

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemaic_Kingdom

Two claims on the Land.]



In the 2nd century BCE, Judea lay between the Ptolemaic Kingdom (S., based in Egypt) and the Seleucid empire (NE, based in Syria), monarchies which had formed following the death of Alexander the Great (356–323 BCE). Judea had initially come under Ptolemaic rule, but fell to the Seleucids around 200 BCE. Some Jews, mainly those of the urban upper class, notably the Tobiad family, wished to dispense with Jewish Torah and to adopt a Greek lifestyle. According to the historian Victor Tcherikover, the main motive for the Tobiads' Hellenism

was economic and political. The Hellenizing Jews built a gymnasium in Jerusalem, competed in international Greek games, "removed their marks of circumcision and repudiated the holy covenant."

In the conflict over the office of Cohen HaGadol / High Priest, traditionalists with Hebrew / Aramaic names like Onias חֲוֹנִיָּו *Khonio* [grace of YHVH] contested with Hellenizers with Greek names like Jason and Menelaus.

[<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maccabees>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Onias_III#cite_note-1]

When Antiochus IV Epiphanes (ca. 215–164 BCE) became ruler of the Seleucid Empire [northern part] in 175 BCE, Onias III חֲוֹנִיָּו *Khonio* [grace of YHVH] held the office of כהן הגדול Cohen HaGadol, High Priest in Jerusalem.

[<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maccabees>

*Try to remember this name, key to the story from this angle. Onias III חֲוֹנִיָּו *Khonio**

He was the son of the יָדֻעַ *Yadua* mentioned in NeKhemiah

Nekhemia 12.11-12 Yeshua was the father of Yoyakim ... and Yonatan was the father of יָדֻעַ *Yadua*. In the days of Yoyakim these were the cohanim who were heads of fathers' clans.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Onias_III#cite_note-1

BTW, note that Yeshua is a relatively common male name in the later Tanakh]

Nekhemia 12.8,9 The L'vi'im: Yeshua...who was in charge of the songs of thanksgiving ...singing antiphonally with them in the service.

To Antiochus, the High Priest was merely a local governor within his realm, a man whom he could appoint or dismiss at will, while Jews saw the holder of the Cohanut / High Priesthood as divinely appointed.

Jason, the brother of Onias חֲוֹנִיָּו *Khonio* [grace of YHVH], bribed Antiochus to make him High Priest instead of Onias Khonio.

Jason abolished the traditional theocracy and received from Antiochus permission to convert Jerusalem into a Greek polis called Antioch. Built a gym. However, **Menelaus** then bribed Antiochus and was appointed Cohen HaGadol in place of Jason. Menelaus had Onias חֲוֹנִיָּו *Khonio* assassinated.

Menelaus' brother Lysimachus stole holy vessels from the Temple; the resulting riots led to the death of Lysimachus. Menelaus was arrested for Onias חֲוֹנִיָּו *Khonio's* murder, and was arraigned before Antiochus, but he bribed his way out of trouble.

Jason subsequently drove out Menelaus and became High Priest again.

[<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maccabees>]

Summary of the history above

1. Onias חֲוֹנִיָּו *Khonio* [grace of YHVH] Cohen HaGadol, High Priest, son of the יָדֻעַ *Yadua* mentioned in NeKhemiah
2. **Jason** his brother, stole the cohanut by bribery.
3. **Menelaus** bribed Antiochus stole the Cohanut from Jason. 171 BC to about 161 BCE. His brother Lysimachus stole Temple objects, causing riots. Menelaus arrested for assassination of Onias חֲוֹנִיָּו *Khonio*. Bribed his way out, but Jason became Cohen again.

[Apparently, the holiness of Temple and Torah worship was of no great consequence to Israel and her leaders. So ...]

Antiochus pillaged the Temple, attacked Jerusalem and "led captive the women and children." (168 BCE). From this point onwards, Antiochus pursued a zealous Hellenizing policy. Until Modiin ...

[<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maccabees>]

After the spiritual failure of Israel, our enemy was emboldened and intensified his attacks. Our own failures, as G-d's people, opens doors for our enemies.]

Daniel 11.28 **Then** the king of the north will return to his own land with great wealth; with his heart set against the holy covenant, he will take action and then return home.

Most of the Jewish people and our leadership corrupted their way.

Then the incident of sacrificing a pig took place in Modiin, starting the revolt. **If we hadn't had this crisis, assimilation would have continued.**

In G-d's economy, what seems to stop our dreams is what fulfills them ... if we respond right.

Setback → step-up

1 Macabees 2.15-28 The king's officers, such as compelled the people to revolt, came into the city Modin, to make them sacrifice. And when many of Israel came unto them, Mattathias also and his sons came together. Then answered the king's officers, and said to Mattathias on this wise, [*i.e.: sacrifice a pig*]

*from Apocrypha: additional ancient Jewish books, NOT Scripture
This one in Hebrew orig, Greek surviving]*

1 Macabees 2.15-28 You are a ruler, and an honorable and great man in this city, and strengthened with sons and brethren: Now therefore come first, and fulfill the king's command, like as all the heathen have done, and the men of Judah also, and such as remain at Jerusalem: so shall you and thy house be in the number of the king's friends, and you and your children shall be honored with silver and gold, and many rewards.

1 Macabees 2.15-28 Then Mattathias answered and spake with a loud voice, Though all the nations that are under the king's dominion obey him, and fall away every one from the religion of their fathers, and give consent to his commandments: Yet will I and my sons and my brethren **walk in the covenant of our fathers.**

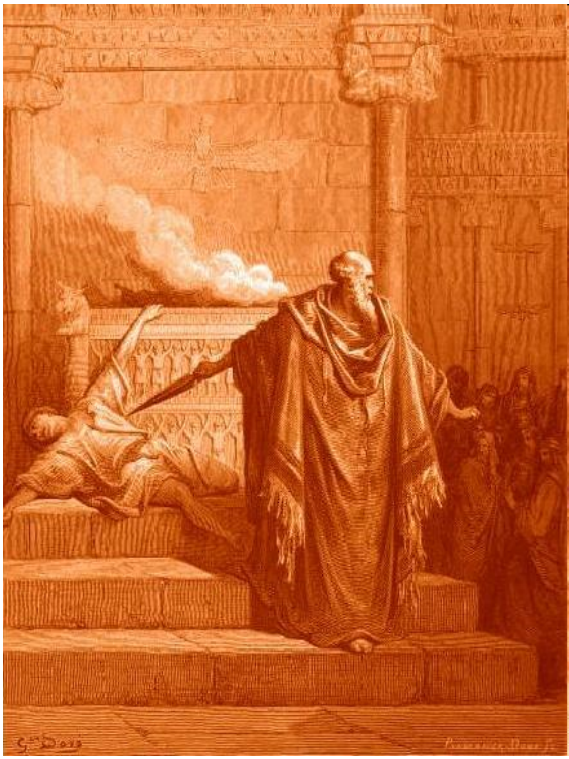
[*Us also. Purpose of Messianic Judaism is COVENANT*]

1 Macabees 2.15-28 God forbid that we should forsake the law and the ordinances. We will not hearken to the king's words, to go from our religion, either on the right hand, or the left. Now when he had left speaking these words, there came one of the Jews in the sight of all to sacrifice on the altar which was at Modin, according to the king's commandment.

[*Compliant.*]

What can it hurt?

Let's don't make trouble. Ralph Beren Jewish humor there were these two Jewish men standing before a firing squad in Czarist Russia. Their crime? Being Jewish. So the Cossack captain (I've forgiven Cossack, Poles) heading the firing squad looks at Abie and Yankele and shouts, "Jews, take off your hats." Abie takes off his hat. But Yankele says, "No, I won't take off my hat." So Abie leans over to Yankele and whispers, "Yankele, don't make trouble."]



¹ Maccabees 2:15-28 **Which thing when Mattathias saw, he was inflamed with zeal, and his reins trembled, neither could he forbear to show his anger according to judgment: wherefore he ran, and slew him upon the altar. Mattathias stabs him, also killing the Greek official present. He then turns to the crowd and announces: "Follow me, all of you who are for God's law and stand by the covenant."** ¹

Maccabees 2:27

[Even if all the nations that live under the rule of the king obey him, and have chosen to do his commandments, departing each one from the religion of his fathers, yet I and my sons and my brothers will live by the covenant of our fathers... We will not obey the king's word by turning aside from our religion to the right hand or to the left. (1 Maccabees 2:19-22)]

[Best photo we have sepia]

This guy was about to sacrifice a pig on the altar. So after this came the Maccabean Wars, and in about a year the liberation of Jerusalem under Mattathias' sons, principally Yehuda/Judah Maccabee.]

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[Resurrection power of Yeshua and the Ruakh to accomplish!]

Send me a testimony of praise, thanksgiving]

The original Feast of Hanukah had nothing to do with a menorah miracle, where supposedly one day's ration of oil burned for eight days. According to the historical record written less than 100 years after the first Hanukkah in *2 Maccabees*, "on the very same date on which the Temple was profaned by foreigners,

there occurred the purification of the Temple – on the 25th day of the ninth month (that is, *Kislev*).

Joyfully they held an eight-day celebration after the pattern of Tabernacles ... remembering how a short time before, they spent the Festival of Tabernacles like beasts... Therefore, holding wreathed wands

and branches bearing ripe fruit, and palm fronds, they offered songs of praise to Him Who had victoriously brought about the purification of His Place. By vote of the commonwealth they decreed a rule for the entire nation of the Jews to observe these days annually" ² Maccabees 10:5-8.

They rose up initially as a prophesied Levitical and Aaronic revivalist movement, calling Israel back to obedience to God's words.

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Daniel 11.29-35 **but the people who know their God will stand firm and prevail. Those among the people who have discernment will cause the rest of the people to understand**

[In 168 B.C., his soldiers descended upon Jerusalem, massacring thousands of people and desecrating the city's holy Second Temple by erecting an altar to Zeus and sacrificing pigs within its sacred walls. Forbad study of the Bible.]

Daniel 11.29-35 **what is happening; nevertheless, for a while they will fall victim to sword, fire, exile and pillage. When they stumble, they will receive a little help, although many who join them will be insincere.**

["We can still be Jews, but embrace new insights, sports, activities, learning ..."Nudity, death, sensuality, violence, intellectual fads and pride

Wisdom, discernment of the Macabbees.]

Daniel 11.29-35 **Even some of those with discernment will stumble, so that some of them will be refined, purified and cleansed for an end yet to come at the designated time.**

The Maccabee Hasmoneans (a family from the tribe of Levi) had a divine calling to be priests (Ex 29:44):

"I will also consecrate Aaron and his sons to minister as priests to Me." But the kingship and the royal line were reserved only for King David and his dynasty, from the tribe of Judah 2 Samuel 7:8-17.

Though their revival movement had started out safeguarding the calling and gifts of the Jewish people (see Romans 11:28-29; 3:1-2; Numbers 23:7-9), within thirty years it had morphed into a movement advocating Hellenistic assimilation and accommodation with paganism.

[So the very issue that they fought against, they succumbed to!!]

The Maccabean King Alexander Jannaeus (Yannai in Hebrew) faced strong opposition during his reign from the Bible believers of that time, the P'rushim/Pharisees. At that time the Pharisees had risen up as a revival movement, calling the people of Israel back to the Bible and back to the God of their fathers.

They could not tolerate Aaron's descendants usurping the kingship and spreading Greek influence among Jacob's children. On one occasion Jannaeus [Maccabee line] had 6,000 of his P'rushim Pharisee opponents murdered.

At another time he had 800 P'rushim/Pharisees crucified (but only after their wives and children were massacred before their eyes; see Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews 13:14:2, <http://penelope.uchicago.edu/josephus/ant-13.html>):

When the Pharisees took over the reins of Judaism from the Sadducees (the High Priestly family known as *Bnei Tzadok* or the *Tzedukim*) 150 years later, this burgeoning rabbinic movement had little desire to speak kindly of Maccabean faded glory.

[So assimilated Jews overthrown by Maccabees.

Maccabees assimilated to Greek ways overthrown in Jewish leadership by the P'rushim. P'rushim Biblical revival movement at the start.]

By 135 AD, the Pharisees had created a 'fake news' reason for Hanukkah in their '*Scroll Concerning Fasting*' (*Megilat Ta'anit folio 9*). This pseudo-history now shifted attention away from the Maccabees, placing it on a heretofore unknown miracle.

1. The Greek evil King Antiochus [exploited the] divided Jewish people against themselves as he whittled away their spiritual and physical inheritance. The pull on the Jewish people to exchange our gifts and calling for international flattery and favor is as much a pitfall today as it was 2,000 years ago.
2. "Give me liberty or give me death" was not only a byword of the American Revolution. It was the 'Semper Fi' of the Maccabees as well.

3. Hanukkah teaches us that military operations (carried out at the right time and led by the right men and women) can turn into God-blessed exploits of amazing bravery. This applies in a special way to when Israel's believing remnant defends the land and people of Israel from our mortal enemies.
4. It strengthens us to remember that the God of Israel prophesied both about these conflicts as well as about a remnant standing faithfulness in trying times. YHWH knows the challenges that we face, and He will be with us in the same way as He stood by the Maccabees.
5. War and persecution are running mates with revival.
6. The Maccabees spearheaded a revival in Israel which ultimately safeguarded the light entrusted by God to the Jewish people (Romans 3:1-2). The birth of Yeshua in Bethlehem of Judah would not have happened if Antiochus' strategies had become reality for the Jewish people. 2:26-34).

The Maccabees corrupted their way so in a century or so the Pharisees arose to bring Israel back to scripture against the Maccabean Hellenists!

7. Today, faithfulness to the message of Hanukkah means being faithful to Yeshua, David's Greater Son and Israel's Messiah – the Light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the Glory of His people Israel (Luke 2:26-34).

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Setback → step-up

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Some practical illustrations of this:

1. We would not have gotten this building if not "eviction notice" Nov., 2015
2. No resurrection, without death.
3. American longevity.

For the third year in a row, life expectancy is on the decline -- a pattern this country hasn't seen since World War I. On average, Americans can expect to live 78.6 years, down a tenth of a year from 2016. "Most researchers look at longevity as a snapshot of America's overall health.

And Johns Hopkins's Joshua Sharfstein thinks this is a pretty "dismal picture" of where the nation is at. In developing countries especially, "Life expectancy is improving in many places in the world. For now, experts are blaming two crises: the explosion of opioid abuse and a spike in suicides.

Back when Bob Morrison, a former FRC fellow, worked in the Reagan administration, he was researching a project on teen suicide. He poured over the manual from the CDC on the suicide rates for virtually every U.S. demographic.

"I became familiar with the suicide rates for almost every group, from Ashkenazi Jews to Zuni Indians," Bob explains. "I noticed that black females had an almost nonexistent suicide rate. Could that be accurate? I quickly called the CDC and the desk officer there assured me it was correct: 'We call it the BFPF.' What's that, I pressed? 'The Black Female Protective Factor -- black women are very religious.'"

Turns out, faith just doesn't help black women. It helps all women. In 2016, experts were blown away to find that the women who went to church more than once a week had a 33 percent lower risk of dying compared to those who never went. Maybe, the researchers said, religion gives people more meaning to their lives.

Or maybe, other experts pointed out, it promotes the kind of discipline that leads to healthy living. Either way, it was obvious to everyone on the project that going to services didn't just lead to eternal life -- it led to longer life.

Religion also happens to be the best anti-depressant. A 2013 study found that people who believe in a higher power actually respond better to psychiatric care. Dr. David Rosmarin of Harvard Medical said, "Our work suggests that people with a moderate to high level of belief... do significantly better in short-term [mental] treatment than those without, regardless of their [religion]."

[Next factor I say with compassion. There are exceptions, and many of you have been through the great trauma of marriage disruption. But as a general rule ...]

And belief isn't the only thing that helps. So does marriage. After 80 years of studying the connection, the Longevity Project released an entire book about life span and divorce. Starting in the 1920s, children who grew up in broken homes died an average of five years earlier than kids from intact families, they discovered.

That's a sobering statistic when you consider that almost half of all marriages end in divorce. And unfortunately, the unhappiness of splitting up is harder on your health than the frustration of sticking together

In studies like Dr. Kate Scott's, marriage reduced the symptoms of depression in 34,000 people - dramatically more than people who are divorced, separated, or widowed. Even unhappily married partners [generally] fare better psychologically than people who never tie the knot.

[<https://www.frcaction.org/updatearticle/20181129/mortality-morality>]

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Setback → step-up

[Yosef, Maccabees, life issues, RESURRECTION, family issues.]

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