

Week 13: The Maccabean Revolt

“[Y]ou, my sons, be strong and courageous in defending the Law, because it is through the Law that you will earn great glory..”

1 Maccabees 2:64



Hotly contested, Judaea has become the object of a violent tug-of-war between the Ptolemaic and the Seleucid kingdoms. Eventually, the province of Judaea falls into the hands of the Seleucids (323-163 BC), in whose control it remains until the rise of Seleucid King Antiochus IV Epiphanes. Under Antiochus the IV, things change. He launches a Hellenistic program across Judaea, banning the Torah (Jewish Law), forcing the Jews to eat unclean food, and defiling the Temple with what the prophet Daniel refers to as “the Abomination of Desolation.” His goal is to unite Judaea by eradicating the worship of Yahweh. There’s one thing Antiochus IV didn’t expect, however: the Maccabean brothers. And they’re not about to go down without a fight.

Readings:

- I Maccabees 1-5; Daniel 7-12
- Study the maps of the Seleucid Kingdom and the Maccabean Revolt (below)

Seleucid Persia - 320 BCE



Seleucid Persia - 300 BCE



