

the ornaments of them.

**3** And with other such like speeches, he exhorted them that they would not remove the law from their heart.

**4** It was also contained in the same writing, how the prophet, being warned by God, commanded that the tabernacle and the ark should accompany him, till he came forth to the mountain where Moses went up, and saw the inheritance of God.

**5** And when Jeremias came thither he found a hollow cave: and he carried in thither the tabernacle, and the ark, and the altar of incense, and so stopped the door.

**7** And when Jeremias perceived it, he blamed them, saying: The place shall be unknown, till God gather together the congregation of the people, and receive them to mercy.

**8** And then the Lord will shew these things, and the majesty of the Lord shall appear, and there shall be a cloud as it was also shewed to Moses, and he shewed it when Solomon prayed that the place might be sanctified to the great God.

**9** For he treated wisdom in a magnificent manner: and like a wise man, he offered the sacrifice of the dedication, and of the finishing of the temple.

**10** And as Moses prayed to the Lord, and fire came down from heaven, and consumed the holocaust: so Solomon also prayed, and fire came down from heaven and consumed the holocaust.

**11** And Moses said: Because the sin offering was not eaten, it was consumed.

**12** So Solomon also celebrated the dedication eight days.

**13** And these same things were set down in the memoirs, and commentaries of Nehemias: and how he made a library, and gathered together out of the countries, the books both of the prophets,

and of David, and the epistles of the kings, and concerning the holy gifts.

**14** And in like manner Judas also gathered together all such things as were lost by the war we had, and they are in our possession.

**15** Wherefore, if you want these things, send some that may fetch them to you.

**16** As we are then about to celebrate the purification, we have written unto you: and you shall do well, if you keep the same days.

**17** And we hope that God, who hath delivered his people, and hath rendered to all the inheritance, and the kingdom, and the priesthood, and the sanctuary,

**18** As he promised in the law, will shortly have mercy upon us, and will gather us together from every land under heaven into the holy place.

**19** For he hath delivered us out of great perils, and hath cleansed the place.

**20** Now as concerning Judas Machabeus, and his brethren, and the purification of the great temple, and the dedication of the altar:

**21** As also the wars against Antiochus, the Illustrious, and his son, Eupator:

**22** And the manifestations that came from heaven to them, that behaved themselves manfully on the behalf of the Jews, so that, being but a few they made themselves masters of the whole country, and put to flight the barbarous multitude:

**23** And recovered again the most renowned temple in all the world, and delivered the city, and restored the laws that were abolished, the Lord with all clemency shewing mercy to them.

**24** And all such things as have been comprised in five books by Jason, of Cyrene, we have attempted to abridge in one book.

**25** For considering the multitude of books, and the difficulty that they find that desire to undertake the narrations of histories, because of the

multitude of the matter,

**26** We have taken care for those indeed that are willing to read, that it might be a pleasure of mind: and for the studious, that they may more easily commit to memory: and that all that read might receive profit.

**27** And as to ourselves indeed, in undertaking this work of abridging, we have taken in hand no easy task; yea, rather a business full of watching and sweat.

**28** But as they that prepare a feast, and seek to satisfy the will of others: for the sake of many, we willingly undergo the labour.

**29** Leaving to the authors the exact handling of every particular, and as for ourselves, according to the plan proposed, studying to be brief.

**30** For as the master builder of a new house must have care of the whole building: but he that taketh care to paint it, must seek out fit things for the adorning of it: so must it be judged of us.

**31** For to collect all that is to be known, to put the discourse in order, and curiously to discuss every particular point, is the duty of the author of a history:

**32** But to pursue brevity of speech, and to avoid nice declarations of things, is to be granted to him that maketh an abridgment.

**33** Here then we will begin the narration: let this be enough by way of a preface: for it is a foolish thing to make a long prologue, and to be short in the story itself.

### Chapter 3

Therefore, when the holy city was inhabited with all peace, and the laws as yet were very well kept, because of the godliness of Onias, the high priest and the hatred his soul had of evil,

**2** It came to pass that even the kings themselves and the princes esteemed the place worthy of the highest honour, and glorified the temple with very great gifts:

**3** So that Seleucus, king of Asia, allowed out of his revenues all the charges belonging to the ministry of the sacrifices.

**4** But one Simon, of the tribe of Benjamin, who was appointed overseer of the temple, strove in opposition to the high priest, to bring about some unjust thing in the city.

**5** And when he could not overcome Onias, he went to Apollonius, the son of Tharseas, who at that time was governor of Celesyria, and Phenicia:

**6** And told him, that the treasury in Jerusalem was full of immense sums of money, and the common store was infinite, which did not belong to the account of the sacrifices: and that it was possible to bring all into the king's hands.

**7** Now when Apollonius had given the king notice concerning the money that he was told of, he called for Heliodorus, who had the charge over his affairs, and sent him with commission to bring him the foresaid money.

**8** So Heliodorus forthwith began his journey, under a colour of visiting the cities of Celesyria and Phenicia, but indeed to fulfil the king's purpose.

**9** And when he was come to Jerusalem, and had been courteously received in the city by the high priest, he told him what information had been given concerning the money: and declared the cause for which he was come: and asked if these things were so indeed.

**10** Then the high priest told him that these were sums deposited, and provisions for the subsistence of the widows and the fatherless:

**11** And that some part of that which wicked Simon had given intelligence of belonged to Hir-

canus, son of Tobias, a man of great dignity; and that the whole was four hundred talents of silver, and two hundred of gold.

**12** But that to deceive them who had trusted to the place and temple which is honoured throughout the whole world, for the reverence and holiness of it, was a thing which could not by any means be done.

**13** But he, by reason of the orders he had received from the king, said, that by all means the money must be carried to the king.

**14** So on the day he had appointed, Heliodorus entered in to order this matter. But there was no small terror throughout the whole city.

**15** And the priests prostrated themselves before the altar in their priests' vestments, and called upon him from heaven, who made the law concerning things given to be kept, that he would preserve them safe, for them that had deposited them.

**16** Now whosoever saw the countenance of the high priest, was wounded in heart: for his face, and the changing of his colour, declared the inward sorrow of his mind.

**17** For the man was so compassed with sadness and horror of the body, that it was manifest to them that beheld him, what sorrow he had in his heart.

**18** Others also came flocking together out of their houses, praying and making public supplication, because the place was like to come into contempt.

**19** And the women, girded with haircloth about their breasts, came together in the streets. And the virgins also that were shut up, came forth, some to Onias, and some to the walls, and others looked out of the windows.

**20** And all holding up their hands towards heaven made supplication.

**21** For the expectation of the mixed multi-

tude, and of the high priest, who was in an agony, would have moved any one to pity.

**22** And these indeed called upon almighty God, to preserve the things that had been committed to them safe and sure for those that had committed them.

**23** But Heliodorus executed that which he had resolved on, himself being present in the same place with his guard about the treasury.

**24** But the spirit of the Almighty God gave a great evidence of his presence, so that all that had presumed to obey him, falling down by the power of God, were struck with fainting and dread.

**25** For there appeared to them a horse, with a terrible rider upon him, adorned with a very rich covering: and he ran fiercely and struck Heliodorus with his fore feet, and he that sat upon him seemed to have armour of gold.

**26** Moreover there appeared two other young men, beautiful and strong, bright and glorious, and in comely apparel: who stood by him, on either side, and scourged him without ceasing with many stripes.

**27** And Heliodorus suddenly fell to the ground, and they took him up, covered with great darkness, and having put him into a litter, they carried him out.

**28** So he that came with many servants, and all his guard, into the aforesaid treasury, was carried out, no one being able to help him, the manifest power of God being known.

**29** And he indeed, by the power of God, lay speechless, and without all hope of recovery.

**30** But they praised the Lord, because he had glorified his place: and the temple, that a little before was full of fear and trouble, when the Almighty Lord appeared, was filled with joy and gladness.

**31** Then some of the friends of Heliodorus