**The Fifth Book of Maccabees**

*Translation by Henry Cotton (1832) – with some minor modernisations.  
[****Note****: A considerable amount of proof-reading and correction remains to be done on the text from Ch. 8 onwards!]*

**Chapter I**

*The attempt of Heliodorus on the treasury.*

1It was ordained by the kingsof the Grecian Gentiles that large sums of money should be sent into the holy cityevery year, and should be delivered to the priests, that they might add it to the treasury of the house of God, as money for the receivers of alms [orphans] and for widows.

2Now Seleucuswas king in Macedonia; and he had a friend, one of his captains, who was called Heliodorus. This man was sent to spoil the treasury, and to take whatever money was therein. 3When this was noised abroad, it created great grief among the citizens; and they were afraid lest Heliodorus should proceed to greater lengths; 4as they had not sufficient power to prevent him from executing his orders. 5Wherefore they all fly to God *for aid*, and ordained a general fast, and supplicated with humility, bowing of the knees, and great wailing; 6putting on sackcloth, and rolling themselves in ashes, with Oniasthe high priest and the other princes and elders, even to the common people, and women and children. 7And, on the next day, Heliodorus came into the house of God, with a train of followers; and entered into the house with his foot soldiers, he himself being on horseback, and in search of the money. 8But the great and good Godsent a loud, terrible voice upon him; and he saw a person armed with weapons of war, riding on a large horse, *and* advancing against him. 9Wherefore he was seized with fear and trembling; and that person came up to him, and pulled him off from his saddle, and struck him with violence to the earth. 10So that, being exceedingly terror-struck and frightened out of his senses, he became dumb. 11But when his attendants saw what had befallen him and could perceive no one who had done these things unto him, they carried him with all haste down to his own house; 12and he remained during several days, neither speaking nor taking any food. 13Wherefore the chief men of his friends went to Onias the priest, beseeching him to be appeased towards him, and to implore the great and good God that He would not punish him. 14Which thing Onias did; and Heliodorus was healed of his disease. 15And he saw *in a vision* the person, whom he had seen in the sanctuary, commanding him to go to Onias the priest, and to salute him, and pay him becoming honour, telling him that the great and good God had heard his prayers, and had healed him at Onias’ request. 16Heliodorus, therefore, hastened to Onias the priest who, falling down, he saluted; and gave him money of various kinds, requesting him to add it to that which was in the treasury.

17Then he went from Jerusalem into the country of Macedonia and related to king Seleucus what had happened to him; entreating that he would not compel himto become his representative at Jerusalem. 18Wherefore the king wondered at the things which Heliodorus mentioned to him; and commanded him to publish them to the world. 19And he took care that his men should be removed and sent away from Jerusalem, increasing the gifts which he used to send thither annually, on account of what had befallen Heliodorus. 20And the kings added more to the money which they ordered to be given to the priests, that it might be spent on the orphans and widows; also, to that which was to be spent on the sacrifices.

**Chapter II**

*The history of the translation of the twenty-four books out of the Hebrew tongue into the Greek tongue, for Ptolemy king of Egypt.*

1There was a man of Macedon named Ptolemy, endued with knowledge and understanding; whom, as he dwelt in Egypt, the Egyptians made king over the country of Egypt*.* 2Wherefore he, being possessed with a desire of seeking out *various* knowledge, collected all the books of wise men from every quarter. 3And being anxious to obtain “the Twenty-Four Books,” he wrote to the high priest in Jerusalem, to send him seventy elders from among those who were most skilled in those books; and he sent to the priest a letter, with a present. 4So, when the king’s letter came to the priest, he chose out seventy learned men, and sent them, together with a man named Eleazar, one excelling in religion, science, and learning, who departed into Egypt. 5And, when their approach was made known to the king, he commanded seventy lodgings to be prepared, and the men to be there entertained. 6He also ordered a secretary to be appointed for each one, who should take down the interpretation of these books in the Greek character and language. 7He likewise forbade that any one of these should hold communication with any of his fellows, lest they should agree together to make any change in those books. 8So, the secretaries took down from every one of them the translation of “the Twenty-Four Books.” 9And, when the translations were finished, Eleazar brought them to the king and compared them together in his presence, on which comparison, they were found to agree. 10Upon which the king was exceeding glad and ordered a large sum of money to be divided amongst the party. But Eleazar *himself* he rewarded with a munificent recompense. 11He also on that day set free every captive which was found in Egypt, of the tribe of Judah and of Benjamin, that they might return to their own country Syria. 12The number of them was about one hundred and thirty thousand. 13Moreover, he ordered money to be distributed among them, so that several denarii came to the share of each person; who, receiving these, departed into their own land. 14Then he commanded a great table to be made of the purest gold, which should be large enough to contain a representation of the whole land of Egypt, and a picture of the Nile, from the commencement of its stream to the end of it in Egypt, with its various divisions through the country, and how it waters the whole land. 15He also ordered the table to be set with many precious stones. 16And this table was made; and its carving was finished, and it was set with precious stones; and it was carried into the city of Jerusalem, a present to the magnificent house. 17And, arriving in safety, it was placed in the house, according to the king’s command. 18And, truly, men never beheld its like; for the beauty of the pictures and the excellence of the workmanship.

**Chapter III**

*The history of the Jews.   
A relation of what befell the Jews under king Antiochus; and what battles took place between them and his captains; and to the lengths he at last proceeded.*

1There was a certain man of the kings of Macedon, who was called Antiochus; among whose deeds was this: 2That when Ptolemy the above-mentioned king of Egypt was dead, he went with his armies to attack the secondPtolemy. And, having conquered and slain Ptolemy, he won his countryEgypt, and took possession of it. 3From hence, as his affairs gained an accession of strength, he subdued a great part of the earth; the king of Persia and others paying him obedience. 4Wherefore his heart was lifted up; and, being puffed up with pride, he commanded images to be made after his own likeness, so that men should worship them, to his glorifying and honour. 5And, when these were made, he sent messengers into all the regions of his empire, commanding them to be worshipped and adored. To these commands the nations assented, fearing and dreading his tyranny. 6Now there were at that time in Judaea three men, the very worst of all mortals; and each of them had, as it were, a connection in the same sort of vice. The name of one of these three was Menelaus; of the second, Simeon; of the third, Alcinius. 7And, about that time, there appearedcertain images, which the citizens of Jerusalem beheld in the air for the space of forty days: they were the appearances of men riding on fiery horses fighting with each other. 8So, those impious men went to Antiochus, to obtain from him some authority, that they might perpetrate with ease whatever they wished, of whoredom, *and* plundering of men’s goods; and, in short, might rule over the rest, and might keep them in subjection. 9And they said to him, “O king, there have appeared lately in the air over Jerusalem fiery horsemen, contending with each other; and on that account the Hebrews have rejoiced, saying, that this portended the death of king Antiochus.” 10Which words the king believing, being filled with rage, he marched to Jerusalem in the shortest possible time; and came upon the nation not at all forewarned of his approach. 11And his men attacked the inhabitants, and slew them with the sword, making a very great slaughter; many also they wounded, and a great multitude they led into captivity. 12But some escaping fled into the mountains and woods, where they continued a long time, feeding upon herbs. 13After this, Antiochus determined to depart from the country. 14But the evil which he had done to the nation did not suffice him; but he left as his substitute a man named Felixenjoining him to compel the Jews to worship his image, and to eat swine’s flesh. 15Which Felix did in sending for the people to obey the king in the things which he had commanded him. 16But they refused to do the things whereunto they were called; wherefore he slew a great multitude of them, preserving those wicked wretches and their family and raising their dignity.

**Chapter IV**

*The history of the death of Eleazar the priest.*

1Afterwards was seized Eleazar, who had gone with the doctors unto Ptolemy, and was then a very old man, ninety years of age; 2And he was placed before Felix; who said to him, “Eleazar, truly you are a wise and prudent man; and indeed I have loved you for many years, and therefore I should not wish your death; 3therefore, obey the king, and worship his image, and eat of his sacrifices, and depart in safety.” 4To whom Eleazar replied, “I am not about to forsake my obedience to God, in order to obey the king.” 5And Felix, coming up whispered to him, “Take care to send for someone to bring you flesh from your own offerings, which place upon my table; 6and eat some part of that in the presence of the people, that they may know that you have obeyed the king; and you will save your life, without any harm done to your religion.” 7Eleazar answered him, “I do not obey God under any kind of fraud, but rather I will endure this *your* violence. For inasmuch as I am an old man of ninety years, my bones are now weakened, and my body has wasted away. 8If I therefore shall with a brave spirit endure those *torments,* from which even the bravest young men shrink back in fear; my people and the youths of my nation will bravely imitate me, and will say, 9“How is it that we may not endure the pains, which one, who is inferior to us in strength, and less substantial in flesh and bones, has undergone?” 10Which indeed will be better for me, than to deceive them by a feigned obedience to the king: 11For they will *then* say, “If that decrepit old man, wise and prudent as he is, is clinging to life and overcome by the pain of temporary matters, abdicating his religion; truly that will be lawful for us which was lawful for him, since he is an old man and a wise one, and one whom we ought to follow.” 12Wherefore I would rather die, leaving to them a constancy in religion and patience against tyranny, than live after having weakened their constancy in obeying their Lord and following his commands; so that, through me, they may be rendered happy, not unhappy.”13Now, when Felix had heard the determination of Eleazar, he was violently enraged with him, and commanded him to be tortured in a variety of ways, so that he came into the most desperate *mortal* struggle, and said, 14“You, O God, know that I might have delivered myself from the *troubles* into which I have fallen, by obeying another *rather* than You. 15This, however, I have not done; but I have preferred obeying You and have esteemed all the violence offered me as light, for the sake of constancy in obedience to You. 16And now I think little of the things which have happened to me according to your good pleasure and support them as well as I can. 17I therefore pray You, that You will accept this from me, and cause me to die before I become weaker in endurance.” 18And God heard his prayers and immediately he died. 19 But he left his people devoted to the worship of their God, and endued with a sound fortitude, and perseverance in religion, and patience *to bear up* against the trials which awaited them.

**Chapter V**

*The history of the death of the seven brethren.*

1After this, seven brothers were seized, and their mother; and they were sent to the king; for he had not yet gone far away from Jerusalem. 2And when they had been carried to the king, one of them was brought into his presence, whom he ordered to renounce his religion. 3But he refusing said to him, “If you think to teach us the truth *for the first time,* the matter is not so; 4for, truth is that which we have learned from our fathers, and by which we have bound ourselves to embrace the worship of God only, and constantly to observe the law; and from this we in no wise will depart.” 5And king Antiochus was angry at these words, and commanded an iron frying pan to be brought, and to be placed on the fire. 6Then he ordered the young man’s tongue to be cut out, and his hands and feet to be cut off, and the skin of his head to be flayed off, and to be placed in the pan; and they did so to him. 7Then he commanded a large brazen caldron to be brought and set over the fire, into which the rest of his body was thrown. 8And, when the man was near dying, he ordered the fire to be removed from him, that he might be tortured the longer, intending by these acts to terrify his mother and his brethren. 9But in fact by this he gave them additional courage and strength, to maintain their religion with constancy, and to bear all those torments which tyranny could inflict upon them. 10So, when the first was dead, the second was brought before him, to whom some of the attendants said, “Obey those orders that the king will give you, lest you perish even as your brother perished.” 11But he answered, “I am not weaker in spirit than my brother, nor behind him in my faith. Bring forward your fire and sword; and do not diminish ought of that which you did to my brother.” And they did to him as had been done to his brother. 12And he called out to the king, and said to him, “Hear, O you monster of cruelty towards men, and know that you gain nothing of ours except our bodies; but our souls you by no means obtain; 13and these shortly will go to their Creator, whom He will restore to their bodies, when He shall raise to lifethe dead men of his nation and the slain ones of his people.” 14And the third was brought out who, beckoning with his hand, said to the king, “Why do you frighten us, O enemy? 15Know that this is sent upon us from heaven, which also we undergo as such, giving thanks to God, and from Him we hope for our reward.” 16And the king, and those who stood near him, admired the courage of the youth, and the firmness of his mind, and his fair discourse. Then he gave orders, and he was slain. 17And the fourth was brought out, who said, “For God’s religion we set our lives to sale, and hire them out, that we may require payment from Him, on that day when you shall have no excuse in the judgement and shall not be able to endure your tortures.” 18The king commanded, and he was put to death. 19And the fifth was brought out, who said to him, “Think not within yourself that God has forsaken us, because of the things which He has sent upon us. 20But truly his will is, to show us honour and love by these things; and He will avenge us of you and of your posterity.” 21And the king commanded, and he was slain. 22And the sixth was brought out, who said, “I confess indeed my offences to God, but I believe that they shall be forgiven me through *this* my death. 23But you have now opposed God, by slaying those who embrace His religion; and, surely, He will repay you according to your works and will root you out from his earth.” And he gave orders for him, and he was slain. 24And the seventh was brought out, who was a boy. 25Then his mother arose, fearless and unmoved, and looked uponthe corpses of her children. 26And she said, “My sons, I know not how I conceived each one of you, when I did conceive him. Nor had I the power of giving him breath, or of bringing him forth to the light of this world, or of bestowing on him courage and understanding. 27But indeed the great and good God himself formed him according to his own will and gave to him a form according to his good pleasure; 28and brought him into the world by his power; appointing to him a term of life, and good rules, and a dispensation *of religion*, as it pleases Him. 29But you now have sold to God your bodies, which he himself formed, and your souls, which he created; and you have acquiesced in his judgements which he has decreed. 30Wherefore, happy are you, in the things which happily you have obtained; and blessed are you, for the things in which you have been victorious.” 31Now Antiochus had supposed, when he beheld her rise up, that she had done this through being overcome by fear for her child; and he wholly thought that she was about to enjoin him obedience to the king, that he might not perish as his brethren had perished. 32But, when he had heard her words, he was ashamed, and blushed and commanded the boy to be brought to him; that he might exhort him, and persuade him to love life, and deter him from death, 33lest all those should be seen to oppose his authority, and very many others should follow their example. 34Therefore, when he was brought to him, he exhorted him by discourse, and promised him riches, and swore to him that he would make him viceroy to himself. 35But when the boy was not at all moved by his words, and took no heed of them, the king turned to his mother, and said to her, 36“Happy woman, pity this your son, whom alone you have surviving, and exhort him to comply with my orders, and to escape those *sufferings* which have happened to his brethren.” 37And she said, “Bring him hither, that I may exhort him in the words of God.” 38And, when they had brought him to her, she went aside from the crowd; then she kissed him and laughed to scorn the things that had been said to her by Antiochus. 39And then said to him, “My son, come now, be obedient to me, because I have brought you forth, and suckled you, and educated you, and taught you divine religion. 40Look up now to the heaven, and the earth, and the water, and the fire; and understand that the one true God himself created these; and formed man of flesh and blood, who lives a short time, and then will die. 41Wherefore fear the true God, who dies not; and obey the true *Being,* who changes not his promises. 42And fear not this crude giant; and die for God’s religion, as your brothers have died. 43For, if you could see, my son, their honourable dwelling-place, and the light of their habitation, and to what glory they have attained, you would not endure to not follow them. 44And, in truth, I also hope that the great and good God will prepare me, and that I shall closely follow you.” 45Then said the boy, “Know you that I *will* obey God, and will not obey the commands of Antiochus; wherefore, delay not to let me follow my brothers; hinder me not from departing to the place whither they have gone.” 46Then to the king he said, “Woe to you from God! Whither will you fly from Him? Where will you seek for refuge? Or whose help will you implore, that He may not take vengeance on you? 47Truly you have done us a kindness, when you had designed to do us evil; you have done evil to your own soul, and have destroyed it, while you thought to do it good. 48Now we are on our way to a life that death shall never follow and shall dwell in light that darkness shall never put away. 49But your dwelling shall be in the infernal regions, with exquisite punishments from God. 50And I trust that the wrath of God will depart from his people, on account of what we have suffered for them; 51but that you He will torment in this world, and bring you to a wretched death; and that afterwards you will depart into eternal torments.” 52And Antiochus was angry, seeing that the boy opposed his authority; wherefore he commanded him to be tortured even more than his brothers. And this was done, and he died. 53But their mother entreated God and besought Him that she might follow her sons; and immediately she died. 54Then Antiochus departed into his country Macedonia; and he wrote to Felix, and to the other governorsin Syria, that they should slay all the Jews, except those who should embrace his religion. 55And his servants obeyed his command, putting a multitude of men to death.

**Chapter VI**

*The history of Mattathias the high priest, the son of Jochanan, who is the son of Hesmai the priest.*

1A certain man named Mattathias, the son of Jochanan, fled to one of the mountains that were fortified. And the men who were scattered abroad fled thither to him; and some concealed themselves in secluded places. 2But after that Antiochus had departed to a greater distance from the country, Mattathias sent his son Judas secretly into the cities of Judah. 3To certify them of his own and his people’s health, and to desire that as many as were inspired with courage, magnanimity, and zeal for religion, for their wives, and their children, should come unto him. 4And certain of the higher orders of the people, who had stayed behind, went out to him; who, when they were come to him, said to them, 5”Nothing is left to us, but prayer to God, and confidence in Him, and a fight with our enemies, if perhaps God will give us assistance and the victory over them.” 6And the people assented to the opinion of Mattathias, and they acted according to it. 7And it was told to Felix; and he marched against them with a great army. 8And word was brought to him, while on his march, that about a thousand of the people of the Jews, men and women mixed, were assembled together, and dwelling in a certain cave, that they might be enabled to preserve their own way of worship. 9And he turned aside to them with some part of his troops, sending the commanders of his men with the rest of the army against Mattathias. 10Now Felix demanded from those who were in the cave, that they should come out to him, and consent to enter into his religion; but they refused. 11Whereupon he threatened that he would put smokeunder them; and they endured that and did not come out to him; and he put smoke under them, and they all died. 12And when the generals of his army were marching against Mattathias, and came even to him, he being ready for battle, 13one of the generals, of noble blood, went to him, proposing to him to obey the king, and that he should not oppose his authority; so that he himself might live, and those who were with him, and might not perish. 14To whom he said, “I indeed obey God, the true king; but do you obey your king and do whatsoever seems good to you.” And he ceased from speaking. 15And they began to lay snares for him. 16And there came a certain man, of the worst of the Jews who were with them and excited them to march against him and to prepare war. 17And Mattathias rushed on him with his drawn sword and cut off the Jew’s head; then he struck the general, to whom the Jew was speaking, and slew him also. 18But Mattathias’ companions, seeing what he had done, hastened to him; and they burst into the camp of the enemy, slaying great numbers of them, and put them to flight; afterwards they pursued the fugitives, until they slew the whole of them. 19After this, Mattathias blew the trumpet and proclaimed an expedition against Felix. And he and his companions entered into the land of Judah and took possession of very many of their cities. 20And the most high God gave them rest by his hands from the generals of Antiochus. And they returned to the observance of their own religion; and the bands of their enemies retreated from before them.

**Chapter VII**

*The account of the death of Mattathias, and the acts of Judas his son, after him.*

1Now Mattathias became infirm; and, when he was near to death, he called his Sons, who were five, and said to them, 2“I know of a certainty that very many and great wars will be kindled in the land of Judah, for the sake [or, by reason] of those matters for which the great and good God has stirred us up to wage war against our enemies. 3But I charge you that you fear God, and trust in him, and be zealous of the law, and the sanctuary, and the people also. 4And prepare yourselves to wage war against its enemies; and fear not death, because, without doubt, this is decreed unto all men. 5So that, if God shall make you victorious, you have at once obtained that which you were longing for; but, if you fall, that is no loss to you in his sight.” 6And Mattathias died and was buried; and his sons did according to that which he had commanded them. And they agreed to make their brother Judas their leader. 7Now Judas their brother was the best in counsel, and bravest in strength of them all. 8And an army was sent against them by Felix, under a man who called Seron, whom Judas with his company put to flight, and he slew great numbers. 9And the fame of Judas was spread abroad and increased greatly in the ears *of men:* and all the nations which were round about him feared him exceedingly. 10And it was told to king Antiochus what Mattathias and his son Judas had done. 11News of this came also to the king of the Persians, so that he played false with Antiochus, departing from his friendship, following the example of Judas. 12Which, giving Antiochus a great deal of uneasiness, he called to him one of his household officers named Lysias, a stout and brave man, and said to him, 13“I have now determined to go into the land of Persia to make war; and I wish to leave behind me my son in my stead; and to take with me the half my army, and to leave the remainder with my son. 14And behold I have given to you the governance of my son, and the governance of the men whom I leave with him. 15And verily you know what Mattathias and Judas have done to my friends and my subjects. 16Wherefore, send one to lead a powerful army into the land of Judah; and command him to attack the land of Judah with the sword, and to root them out, and to demolish their dwellings, and to destroy all traces of them.” 17Then Antiochus departed into the country of Persia. 18But Lysias made ready three hardy and brave generals, skilled in war; of whom one was named Ptolemy, a second Nicanor, and the third Gorgias. 19And with them he sent forty thousand chosen troops and seven thousand horsemen. He also charged them to bring with them an army of Syrians, and Philistines; and ordered them to root out the Jews entirely. 20And they marched forth, carrying with them a multitude of merchants, that they might sell to them the captives which they were about to obtain from among the Jews. 21But tidings of this came to Judas the son of Mattathias; and he went to the house of the great and good God, 22and assembled his men, and enjoined them a fast, and supplications, and prayers to the great and good God; and charged that they should beseech Him for victory against their enemies; which thing they did. 23After this, Judas collecting his men, appointed over each thousand a chief, and likewise over each hundred, and over each fifty, and over each ten. 24Then he commanded proclamation to be made by trumpet throughout his army, that whosoever was fearful, and whomsoever God commanded to be dismissed from the army, he should return home. 25And great numbers returned; and there remained with them seven thousand stout and brave men, skilled in wars and accustomed thereto; nor had any one of them ever fled: and they marched against their enemies. 26But when they had drawn nigh to them, Judas prayed to his Lord, entreating Him that He would turn away from him the malice of his enemy; and that He would assist him, and render him victorious. 27Then he commanded the priests to sound the trumpets, which they did; and all his men called upon God and rushed upon the army of Nicanor. 28And God gave them victory over them, and they turned him and his men to flight, killing of them nine thousand men, and the rest were dispersed. 29And Judas and his company returned to Nicanor’s camp and made spoil of it; and plundered very much property of the merchants and sent it to be divided among the sick. 30This battle took place on the sixth day of the week; wherefore Judas and his men remained on the same spot until the sabbath-day had passed. 31Then they marched against Ptolemy and Gorgias, whom they found and defeated, and gained a victory over them, slaying twenty thousand of their troops. 32And Ptolemy and Gorgias fled; whom Judas and his company pursued; yet he could not overtake them, because they betook themselves into a city of two idols and fortified themselves therein with the remnant of their army. 33And Judas attacked Felix; and he was put to flight before him and Judas pursued him. Who, coming to a certain house which was nigh at hand, entered into it and closed the doors, for it was a fortified house. 34And Judas commanded, and he set fire to it; and the house was burned, and Felix was burnedin it. So, Judas took vengeance on him for Eleazar and the others whom Felix had put to death. 35Afterwards, the people returned to the slain and took their spoils and their armour; but the best of the prey they sent into the Holy Land. 36But Nicanor departed in disguise unknown, and returned to Lysias, and told him all that had happened to him and his company.

**Chapter VIII**

*Antiochus' return, and his going into the land of Judah, and of the disease which fell on him, of which he died in his journey.*

1But Antiochus returned out of the country of Persia, flying, with his army disbanded. 2And when he had learned what had happened to his army which Lysias had sent forth, and to all his men, he went out with a large army, marching to the land of Judah. 3Now when in his progress he had reached the middle of his journey, God smote his troops with most mighty weapons: but this could not stop him from his journey; 4But he persisted in it, uttering all sorts of insolence against God, and saying that no one could turn him aside, nor hinder him from his determined purposes. 5Wherefore the great and good God smote him also with ulcers which attacked the whole of his body: but even yet he did not desist, nor refrain from his journey; 6But was more filled with wrath and inflamed with an eager desire to obtain what he had determined on, and to carry his resolution into effect. 7Now there were in his army very many elephants. It so happened that one of these ran away and made a bellowing: upon which the horses which were drawing the couch on which Antiochus lay, ran off, and threw him out. 8And, as he was fat and corpulent, his limbs were bruised, and some of his joints were dislocated. 9And the bad smell of his ulcers, which already sent forth a fetid odour, was so much increased, that neither he himself could longer endure it, nor could those who came near him. 10So when he fell, his servants took him up, and carried him upon their shoulders: but as the foul smell grew worse, they threw him down and departed to a distance. 11Therefore, perceiving the evils which surrounded him, he believed for certain that all that punishment had come upon him from the great and good God; by reason of the injury and the tyranny which he had used towards the Hebrews, and the unjust shedding of their blood. 12In fear therefore he turned himself to God, and, confessing his sins, said, “O God, in truth I deserve the thingsthat You have sent upon me; and, indeed just are Youin your judgements; 13You humble him who is exalted, and bring down him who is puffed up: but thine is greatness, and magnificence, and majesty, and prowess. 14Truly, I own, I have oppressed the people, and have both acted and decreed tyrannically against them. 15Forgive, I pray You, O God, this my error; and wipe out my sin, and bestow on me my health: and my care shall be to fill the treasury of your house with gold and silver: 16And to strewthe floor of the house of your sanctuary with purple vestments; and to be circumcised; and to proclaim throughout all my kingdom, that You only are the true God, without any partner, and that there is no God besides you.” 17But God did not hear his prayers, nor accept his supplication; but his troubles so increased on him that he voided his bowels; and his ulcers increased to that degree, that his flesh dropped off from his body. 18Then he died and was buried in his palace. And his son reigned in his stead, whose name was Eupator.

**Chapter IX**

*The history of the eight days of dedication.*

1When Judas had put to flight Ptolemy, and Nicanor, and Gorgias, and had slain their men; he himself and his troops returned into the country of the holy house. 2And he commanded all the altars to be destroyed which Antiochus had ordered to be built: 3And he removed all the idols which were in the sanctuary: and they built up a new altar, and he commanded sacrifices to be offered upon that. 4They prayed also to the great and good God, that He would bring forth the holy firewhich might remain upon the altar: 5And fire came out from some stones of the altar and burned up the wood and the sacrifices; and from it fire continued on the altar until the third carrying into captivity. 6And then they kept the festival of the new altarfor eight days, beginning on the twenty-fifth day of the month Casleu. 7And then they placed breadon the table of the house of God, and lighted the lamps of the candlestick. 8And on each of these eight days they assembled together for prayer and praise: and, moreover, they appointed it an ordinance for every year to come.

**Chapter X**

*The history of Judas' battles with Gorgias and Ptolemy.*

1Now after the days of dedication, Judas marched into the country of the Idumaeans, to the mountain Sarah; for Gorgias was staying there. 2And Gorgias went out against him with a great army, and there were sore battles betwixt them; and there fell of Gorgias' men twenty thousand. 3And Gorgias fled to Ptolemyinto the land of the west, (for Antiochus had made him governor of that country, and there he was staying,) and told him what had befallen him. 4Whereupon Ptolemy went forth with an army, in which were a hundred and twenty thousand men of Macedonia and the east. 5And he went on until he came to the country of Giares (*that is to say, Gilead,*)and the parts adjacent; and he slew great numbers of the Jews. 6So they wrote to Judas, telling him what had happened to them, begging him to come and defeat Ptolemy and drive him away from them. 7And their letter reached him at the same time that a letter came to him from the inhabitants of the mountainof Galilee likewise, informing him how the Macedonians who were at Tyre and Sidon had now united against them, and had attacked them, killing several. 8Now when Judas had read both the letters, he a called together his men, and shewed them the contents of the letters, and appointed a fast and supplication. 9After this, he ordered his brother Simeon to take with him three thousand men of the Jews, and to march with all speed to the mountain of Galilee, and to quell the Macedonians who were there. And Simeon went. 10But Judas hastened to encounter Ptolemy. 11And Simeon attacked the Macedonians unexpectedly, and slew of them eight thousand men, and gave rest to the Galilaeans.12But Judas marched on until he came up with Gorgias and Ptolemy; pressing them and besieging them: and *the two armies* encountered, and very fierce battles took place betwixt them. 13For Ptolemy headed a numerous, stout, and brave body of men. But Judas was accompanied by a very small band: 14Yet, as the people who were with him consisted of the bravest and strongest troops, he steadily resisted, and the battle between them lasted long, and grew very sore. 15Wherefore Judas called out to the great and good God, and invoked his aid. 16And he relatedthat he had seen five youthful horsemen, three of whom fought against Ptolemy’s army, and two stood near himself. 17Whom when he viewed attentively, they seemed to him to be angels of God. 18Wherefore his heart was comforted, and the hearts of his companions; and making frequent assaults upon the enemy, they put them to flight, and slew great multitudes of them. 19And the number of those who were slain of Ptolemy’s army, from the beginning of this battle until the end, was twenty thousand and five hundred. 20After these things, Ptolemy and his men fled to the seacoast, while Judas pursued them and slew as many of them as he caught. 21But Ptolemy fled to Gaza and remained there; and the men of Chalisamcame to him. 22And Judas marched against them; and, when he found them, he defeated them; and Ptolemy’s men were dispersed, but he himself fled to Gaza, and there fortified himself. 23And Judas’ men pursued the flying body and slew great numbers of them. And Judas and the men who were with him marched straight to Gaza, and he pitched his camp and besieged it. 24And Judas’ men returned to him; and they who were left of Ptolemy's forces went up upon the fortification, and abused Judas with much reviling. 25And the fighting between them and Judas' troops lasted for five days. But when the fifth day was come, the people continued to cast reproaches upon Judas, and to revile his religion: 26Whereupon twenty of Judas' men grew angry; who taking shields on their left hands, and swords in their right, and having with them a man bearing a ladder which they had made, marched until they came to the wall: 27And eighteen of them stood and threw darts at those who were on the wall; and two, hastening to the wall, raised up the ladder, and by it mounted. 28But certain of those who were there, perceiving that they had ascended, and that their companions had followed, and also had gone down from the wall into the city, descended from the wall after them: whom Judas’ men defeated, slaying great numbers of their enemies. 29But the army of Judas pressed forward to the gate of the city; and the twenty began to run toward the gate that they might open it; but they were driven thence most fiercely, wherefore they called out with loud cries. 30Judas, therefore, and his men knew that they had come near to the gate: and the battle grew sore both without the gate and within. 31And Judas and his men at tacked the gate with fire, and it fell down; and the people perished, and the men who had reviled Judas, were taken, and he commanded them to be brought out and burned. 32Moreover he commanded the city to be utterly smitten with the sword; and the slaughter continued in it for two days, and then it was wasted with fire. 33But Ptolemy fled; nor were tidings of him heard at that time; because that he had changed his clothes, and concealed himself in one of the pitsand no account of him was had. 34But his two brothers were taken and brought to Judas; and he ordered them to be beheaded. 35After this he went into the land of the sanctuary, with abundance of spoil; and both he and his company offered prayers therein, giving thanks to God for the benefits which they had received.

**Chapter XI**

*The battle between Judas and Lysias, the general of Eupator, after the death of king Antiochus.*

1The name of Antiochus, of whom mention has been made above, was Epiphanius: but the name of his son who reigned after him was Eupator, who also was named Antiochus. 2And when the battles of Judas with these generals had taken place, theywrote on the subject to Eupator; who sent with Lysias, his cousin's son, a large army, in which were eighty thousand horsemen and eighty elephants. 3Who coming to a city which is called Bethner, pitched their camp around it, and besieged it, because it was a large city, and much people was therein. 4And Lysias raised engines of war around it, and began to besiege the inhabitants: 5Which being told to Judas, he himself and his company went out to some fortified mountains; 6And there they abode; lest if they remained in any city, Lysias should come and besiege it, and should overpower them. 7Judas therefore collected his company, and resolved to march with them to Lysias’ camp, after they should have gone to the house of God and offered sacrifices in it; 8Beseeching the great and good God to turn away from them the malice of their enemies, and to grant them victory over them: which thing they did. 9After this, they marched from the region of the holy house to Bethner. For they had designed to come upon the army suddenly, and to defeat it without a struggle. 10Now men say that there appeared to *Judas* a certain personage between, heaven and earth, riding on a fiery horse, and holding in his hand a large spear, with which he smote the army of the Gentiles. 11So that what they had seen gave them additional courage and spirits. And they made haste and charged the army and slew great numbers of its men. 12Wherefore the *enemy’s* army was troubled and thrown into the greatest confusion, and the whole of it betook itself to a confused flight. 13And the sword of Judas and his company pressed sore upon them; and he slew of them eleven thousand footmen, and sixteen hundred horsemen. 14Lysias also was chased, with his company, to a distant place, in which he remained in safety. 15And he sent to Judas, desiring him to be subject to the king, retaining his own and his people's religion: 16To whom Judas consented in this matter, until word could be written to the king, and an answer of his agreeing thereto could be received. 17*And Judas wrote concerning this business;* Lysias also wrote to the king, informing him of what had happened, and what proof he had had of the strength and bravery of the *Jewish* nation, 18and that a continuation of wars with them would exterminate *his* men, as these aforementioned had been exterminated; he told him also their agreement, and his own waiting until he should receive a letter to say what he must do. 19To whom the king replied that it seemed right to him to make peace with the nation *of the Jews*, taking away that stumbling-block concerning the exercise of their religion; for, that this very thing had incited them to the revolts, and to the attacks made on his predecessors. 20He also commanded him to make with them a treaty of peace and obedience; so that no obstacles should be thrown in their way in the matter of religion. 21He wrote also to Judas, and to all the Jews who were in the land of Judah, according to this effect: and this peace continued between them for some space of time.

**Chapter XII**

*An account of the beginning of the power of the Romans, and of the enlargement of their empire.*

1At this same time, of which we have been speaking, the affairs of the Romans began to be exalted: that the great and good God might fulfil that which Daniel the prophet (to whom be peace) had foretold concerning the fourth empire. 2There was also at this time a certain most munificent king in Africa, whose name was Annibal. And the royal seat of his empire was Carthage. He determined to take possession of the kingdom of the Romans: 3Wherefore they united to oppose him, and wars were multiplied between them, so that they fought eighteenbattles in the space of ten years; and they were not able to drive him out of their country, by reason of his innumerable army and people. 4They determined therefore to raise a large force selected from their bravest troops and armies, and to attack Annibal in war, and to persevere until they should turn away his forces from them. 5Which thing truly they did: and they placed at the head of their armies two most renowned men; the name of one was Emilius, and of the other Varro. 6Who meeting Annibal engaged with him; and there were slain of their army ninety thousand men and of Annibal’s army forty thousand men. were slain. Emilius also was killed in that battle. 7But Varro fled into a certain very large and strong city called Venusia; him Annibal did not pursue; but he marched to Rome, to take it, and there to remain. 8So, he lay before it for eight days and began to build houses opposite to it; 9Which, when the citizens saw, they deliberated on entering into a peace and treaty with him, and on surrendering the country. 10But there was among them a certain young man named Scipio, (for the Romans at that time were without a king, and the entire administration of their affairs was committed to three hundred and twentymen, over whom presided a person who was called senioror elder.) 11Scipio therefore comes to these, and persuaded them not to trust to Annibal nor to submission to him. To whom they answered, that they did not trust him, but that they were unable to resist him. 12To whom he said, “The country of Africa is wholly destitute of soldiers, because they are all here with Annibal; give me, therefore, a troop of chosen men, that I may go into Africa; 13and I will perform such feats in it that, when tidings of them shall reach him, perhaps he will quit you, and you will be freed from him, and will be in peace, and having retrieved and strengthened your resources, if he should prepare to return, you will be able to oppose him.” 14And the advice of Scipio appeared to them to be right; and they committed to him thirty thousand of their bravest men.15And he proceeded into Africa. And Asdrubal the brother of Annibal met him, and fought with him; whom Scipio defeated, and cut off his head, and took it, with the rest of the prey, and returned to Rome. 16And mounting upon the rampart, he called to Annibal, and said: How will you be able to prevail against this our country, when you are not able to expel me from your own land, to which I have gone: I have destroyed it, and have killed your brother, and have brought away his head. 17Then he threw the head to him. Which being brought to Annibal and recognised by him, he was increased in fury and anger against the people, and swore that he would not depart he had taken Rome. 18But the citizens, to withdraw him from them, and keep him in check, took counsel to send back Scipio to besiege and attack Carthage. 19And Scipio returned with his army into Africa: and they pitched their camp around Carthage, and besieged it with a most active siege. 20Wherefore the inhabitants wrote to Annibal, saying, You are coveting a foreign country, which you know not whether you will be able to win or not: but there has come to your own country one who is endeavouring to gain possession of it. 21Wherefore, if you delay coming, we will surrender to him the country, and will give up your family and all your substance and your treasures; that we and our property may go unhurt. 22Now when this letter was brought to him, he departed from Rome; and hastened till he came into Africa: 23And Scipio went forward and met him, and fought a most fierce battle with him three times, and there were slain fifty thousand of his men. 24But Annibal, being put to flight, retired into the land of Egypt; whom Scipio pursued, and took him prisoner, and returned to Africa 25And when he was there, Annibal disdained to be seen by the Africans; wherefore he took poison and died. 26And Scipio won the country of Africa, and possessed himself of all the goods, and servants, and treasures of Annibal. 27By which means the fame of the Romans was magnified, and their power from that time began to receive increase.

**Chapter XIII**

*An account of the letter of the Romans to Judas, and the treaty which took place between them.*

1“From the elder and three hundred and twenty governors, unto Judas, general of the army, and to the Jews. Health be to you. 2We have already heard of your victories, and courage, and endurance in war; whereof we rejoice. We have also understood that you have entered into an agreement with Antiochus. 3We write to you to this effect, that you should be friends to us, and not to the Greeks who have done you harm: moreover we intend to go to Antioch, and to make war upon its inhabitants: 4Wherefore make haste to acquaint us with whom you are at enmity, and with whom you have a league of friendship; that we may act accordingly.”

*The Copy of the Treaty*

5“This is the treaty made by the elder and three hundred and twentygovernors with Judas, general of the army, and the Jews; that they should be joined to the Romans, and the Romans and Jews may be of one mind in wars and victories for ever. 6Now if war should come upon the Romans, Judas and his people shall help them, giving no aid to the enemies of the Romans, by provisions or by any kind of weapons. 7And when war shall come upon the Jews, the Romans shall help them to the utmost of their power, giving no aid to their enemies by assistance of any kind. 8And as the Jews are bound to the Romans, so likewise are the Romans to the Jews, without any increase or decrease.” 9And Judas and his people accepted this; and the treaty stood, and continued between them and the Romans for a long time.

**Chapter XIV**

*An account of the battle which took, place between Judas, Ptolemy, and Gorgias.*

1After this, Ptolemy collected an hundred and twenty thousand men, and a thousand horsemen, and they went after Judas. And Judas met him with ten thousand men, and routed him, and many of Ptolemy's men were slain. 2And he besought Judas, and humbly entreated him to let him escape with his life; and swore that he would never more make war against him, and that he would shew kindness to the Jews who were in all his countries. 3And Judas had compassion on him, and let him go; and Ptolemy adhered to his oath. 4But Gorgias having collected three thousand men from mount Sarah, (*that is, of Idumaea,)* and four hundred horsemen, met Judas, and slew the captain of his army and certain of his men. 5Then Judas and his men advanced towards them; and Gorgias was put to flight, and the greater part of his army was killed or fled: and he was sought for, and no tidings were heard of him; but it is reported that he fell in the battle.

**Chapter XV**

*The dissolution of the treaty which Antiochus had made with Judas, and of his march together with Lysias with a great army, and of his wars.*

1But when word was brought to Antiochus Eupator that Judas' affairs had gained strength, and what victories he had gained, he was very angry; 2And broke the treaty which he had made with Judas, and collected a large army, in which were twenty-two elephants: 3And he marched with Lysias his cousin’s son into the country of Judah, directing his course to the city Beth-Ner, before which he pitched his camp, and besieged it. 4Now when this was reported to Judas, he and all the elders of the children of Israel met together, and prayed to the great and good God, offering many sacrifices; 5Which being finished, Judas proceeded with the leaders of his forces, and carne into the camp by night, and made a sudden attack upon it, and slew of the enemy four thousand men and one of the elephants: and he returned to his own camp until the dawn of day should begin to break. 6Then each army was drawn out, and the battle grew fierce between them. 7And Judas perceived one of the elephants with golden trappings, and he supposed that the king was sitting upon him: so he called his men, and said to them, “Which of you will go out and kill this elephant?” 8And a young man, one of his servants, who was called Eleazar, went out and rushed upon the enemy's line, slaying on the right and left, so that the men turned aside out of his view. 9And he went forward until he came even to the elephant; and creeping under him, he cut open his belly; and the elephant fell down upon him, and he died. So, the king, perceiving this, commanded to sound a retreat; and it was done. 10And the amount of men of the higher rank slain that day in the battle was eight hundred men, besides those of the common men who were slain, and those who had been killed during the night. 11Then it was told the king, that a certain man of his friends named Philip had revolted from him: and that Demetriusthe son of Seleucus had gone forth from Rome with a great army of Romans, intending to take the kingdom out of his hand. 12At which being much affrighted, he sent to Judas concerning making peace between them: to which Judas assented; and Antiochus and Lysias his cousin's son swore to him, that they would never more make war upon him. 13And the king displayed a large sum of money, and gave it to Judas for a present to the house of God. 14The king also commanded Menelaus to be seized, one of the threewicked men who had brought evil on the Jews in the days of Antiochus his father; and he ordered him to be carried up to a lofty tower, and to be thrown headlong thence; which was done. 16For by this the king designed to gratify the Jews, since this man was one of their chief enemies, and had slain great numbers of them.

**Chapter XVI**

*The arrival at Antioch of Demetrius the son of Seleucus, and of his defeating Eupator.*

1After these things, king Eupator marched into the country of Macedonia, and then returned to Antioch. 2Whom Demetriusattacked with an army of Romans, and defeated, and slew, together with Lysias his cousin's son; and he reigned at Antioch. 3But to him went Alcimus, the leader of those threewicked men; who, coming into his presence, prostrated himself before him, and wept most vehemently, and said; 4”O king, Judas and his company have been slaying great numbers of us; because, having deserted their religion, we have embraced the religion of the king. Wherefore, O king, assist us against them, and avenge us on them.” 5Then he made the Jews go to him, and incensed him; suggesting to them such things as might provoke Demetrius, and irritate him to fit out an army to vanquish Judas. 6To whom the king giving heed, sent a general named Nicanor, with a great army and an abundant supply of weapons of war. 7And when Nicanor had come into the Holy Land, be sent messengers to Judas to come to him; and did not disclose that he had come to conquer the nation, 8But stated that he came only on account of the peace which was made between him and the nation, and that they*also* were under obedience to the Romans. 9And Judas went out to him with a certain number of his men, who were endued with strength and courage: and he commanded them not to go far from him, lest Demetrius might lay a snare for him. 10When therefore he had met Demetrius, he saluted him; and, a seat being placed for each of them, they sat down, and Demetrius conversed with him as he pleased: afterwards each of them went into a tent which *the troops* had erected for him. 11And Nicanor and Judas departed into the Holy City, and there dwelt together: and a firm friendship grew up between them: 12Which being made known to Alcimus, he went to Demetrius and incensed him against Judas, and persuaded him to write and command Nicanor to send Judas to him bound in chains. 13But tidings of this came to Judas, and he went out from the city by night. and departed to Sebaste, and sent to his companions to come to him. 14And when they were come, he sounded the trumpet, and commanded them to prepare themselves to attack Nicanor. 15But Nicanor sought Judas with great diligence, and could learn no tidings of him. 16Wherefore he went to the house of God, requiring of the priests to give him up to him, that he might send him bound in chains to the king: but they swore that he had not come into the house of God. 17Whereupon he abused both them and the house of God, and spoke insolently of the temple, and threatened that he would demolish it from the very foundations; and departed in a rage. He also took care to search all the houses of the Holy City. 18Likewise he sent his men to the house of a certain excellent man, who had been seized in the time of Antiochus, and put to extreme torture; but after the death of Antiochus the Jews increased his authority and greatly honoured him. 19And when the messengers of Nicanor came to him, he feared lest he should meet with the same treatment which he had received from Antiochus; wherefore he laid hands on himself. 20When this was told to Judas, he was very sorry and much afflicted: and he sent to Nicanor, saying; “Do not seek me in the city, for I am not there: therefore come forth to me, that we may meet each other, either in the plains or in the mountains, as you choose.” 21And Nicanor went forth to him, and Judas met him with these words: “O God, it was You who exterminated the army of king Sennacherib; and he indeed was greater than this man, in fame, in empire, and in the multitude of his host: 22And You delivered Ezechiah king of Judah from him, when he had trusted in You and prayed to You; deliver us, I pray you, O God, from his malice, and make us victorious over him.” 23Then he made ready himself for battle, and advanced to Nicanor, saying, “Take care of yourself, it is to you I come.” 24And Nicanor turned his back and fled: and Judas pursuing smote him on the shoulders, which he divided; and his men were put to flight. 25And there fell of them on that day thirty thousand: and the inhabitants of the cities went out and slew them, so that they left not one of them. 26And they decreed that that day should be every year a day of thanksgiving to the great and good God, and a day of gladness, and of feasting, and of drinking.

*[Thus far is finished the Second**Book from the translation of the Hebrews.]*

**Chapter XVII**

*An account of the death of Judas.*

1But when nearly the same season of the year came round, Bacchides went forth with thirty thousand of the bravest of the Macedonians; 2And came upon Judas without any tidings thereof coming to him, when he was in a certain city called Lalis, with three thousand men: 3Wherefore most of those who were with him fled; and there remained with him eight hundred men, and his brothers Simeon and Jonathan. 4But those who remained with Judas were the strongest and bravest, and who had already endured much in the several battles which he had fought. 5And Judas and his company went out to meet Bacchides and his army. 6And Bacchides divided his army, placing fifteen thousand on the right hand of Judas and his company, and fifteen thousand on their left. 7Then each part shouted against Judas and his company. Who attentively regarding each, perceived that the enemy’s strongest and bravest troops were on the right, and found out that Bacchides himself was there among them. 8Judas likewise divided his company, and took the bravest of them with him, and gave the rest to his brothers. Then he made a charge upon those on the right, and he with his company slew about two thousand men. 9Then perceiving Bacchides, he directed his eyes and steps towards him, and slew all the bravest men who were about him. 10And he in person with his company sustained the multitudes which pressed upon him, felling to the ground the greater part of them, and he came near to Bacchides. 11Whom when Bacchides saw coming towards him like a lion, brandishing in his hand a large sword stained with blood, he was excessively afraid of him, and trembled, and fled out of his sight. 12And Judas with his company pursued him, and they slew his people with the sword, so that they put to death the greater part of those fifteen thousand and Bacchides fled even to Ashdod. 13And the fifteen thousand which were on Judas' left, followed him, and attacked Judas, to whom by this time were come his brothers and those who were with them, greatly fatigued. 14And those fifteen thousand rushed upon them, and a very great battle took place between them and Judas; and there fell on both sides a certain number of slain, in which number was Judas. 15Whom his brothers carried and buried beside the sepulchre of Mattathias his father, [God be merciful to them]; and the children of Israel bewailed him many days. 16Now the time of his governing was seven years, and Jonathan his brother succeeded him in the government.

**Chapter XVIII**

*The history of Jonathan the son of Mattathias.*

1And Jonathan succeeded his brother, and he went to Jordan with a small number of men, which when Bacchides heard of, he marched to him with a large army. 2And when Jonathan saw him, his men swam over Jordan; and Bacchides and his army followed them, and surrounded them. 3But Jonathan rushed on Bacchides; and as the men gave way to Jonathan, he and his company went out from the midst of them, and departed to Beersheba. 4And his brother Simeon joined him, and they abode there; and they repaired whatever of the fortifications had fallen down, and they fortified themselves there. 5But Bacchides marched to them, and besieged them: and Jonathan and his brother, and they which were with them, went out to him by night, and slew great numbers of his army, and burned the battering rams and engines of war; 6And his army was dispersed, and Bacchides fled into the desert. And Jonathan and Simeon, and the men who were with him, pursued and took him. 7Who, when he saw Jonathan, knew that his death was near: wherefore he proclaimed peace with Jonathan, and swore that he would never more make war upon him, and moreover, that he would restore the whole of the captives which he had taken of the army of Judas. 8And Jonathan gave him his hand, and departed from him: nor after this was there any more war between them. And not long after this, Jonathan died, and his brother Simeon succeeded him.

**Chapter XIX**

*The history of Simeon the son of Mattathias.*

1Then Simeon the son of Mattathias succeeded to the government; and he gathered together all those who remained of the army of Judas: 2And his affairs prospered, and he subdued all those who had exercised hostility against the Jews after the death of his brother Judas; and he behaved well towards his people, and the matters of his country were rightly ordered. 3Wherefore Antiochusattacked him, and also Demetrius the son of Seleucus; and sent a great army against him: 4To meet which, Simeon and his two sons went out; and he divided his army into two parts, one of which he kept with himself, and gave the other to his sons. 5Then he and they which were with him went to the army; and he sent his two sons, and their followers by another way, and appointed with them to attack the army at a given time. 6After this, he met the army of Antiochus, and attacked it, and began to prevail against it: and his two sons came when the battle had now begun, and the fight grew fierce, and they came round the rear of the army. 7And Antiochus' army, being placed between two armies, was cut to pieces, nor did a single man of them escape: nor did Antiochus return any more to fight with Simeon. 8And peace and quietness continued among the Jews all the days of Simeon. And the time of his government was two years. 9Then Ptolemy his son-in-law rushed on him, and slew him, at a certain feastwhere he was present. And he seized his wife and his two sons. And Simeon's son, whose name was Hyrcanus, was set in his father's place.

*[Here ends the history as given in the two books usually attached to our Bibles.]*

**Chapter XX**

*The history of Hyrcanus the son of Simeon.*

1Now Simeon, while he was yet alive, had appointed Jochanan his son to be captain; and having gathered to him very many troops, he sent him to vanquish a certain man who had come out against him, and was called Hyrcanus. 2Now he was a man of great fame, powerful in strength, and of an ancient sovereignty. 3Whom Jonathan encountered, and defeated: wherefore Simeon named his son Jochanan Hyrcanus; on account of his slaying Hyrcanus, and gaining a victory over him. 4But when this Hyrcanus had heard that Ptolemy had killed his father, he was afraid of Ptolemy, and fled to Gaza; and Ptolemy pursued him with many followers. 5But the citizens of Gaza helped Hyrcanus, and shut the gates of their city, and hindered Ptolemy from reaching Hyrcanus. 6And Ptolemy returned, and departed to Dagon, having with him the mother of Hyrcanus and his two brothers. Now Dagon had at that time a strongly fortified castle. 7But Hyrcanus went to the Holy House, and offered sacrifices, and succeeded his father: and he collected a large army and went to attack Ptolemy. Wherefore Ptolemy shut the gate of Dagon upon himself and his company, and fortified himself therein. 8And Hyrcanus besieged him, and made an iron ram to batter the wall, and to open it: 9And the battle between them lasted long, and Hyrcanus prevailed against Ptolemy, and went up close to the castle, and almost took it. 10When Ptolemy therefore saw this, he commanded the mother of Hyrcanus and his two brothers to be brought out upon the wall, and to be tortured most severely; which was done to them. 11But Hyrcanus, seeing this, stood still; and fearing that they would be put to death, desisted from fighting. 12To whom his mother called out, and said; “My son, do not be moved by love and filial piety towards me and your brethren, in preference to your father: 13Nor on account of our captivity be weakened in your desire of avenging him; but demand satisfaction for the rights of your father and mine, to the utmost of your power. 14But that which you fear for us from that tyrant, he will necessarily do to us at all events: wherefore press forward your siege without any intermission.” 15When therefore Hyrcanus had heard the words of his mother, he urged on the siege: wherefore Ptolemy increased the tortures of his mother and his brothers; and swore that he would throw them headlong from the castle, as often as Hyrcanus came near to the wall. 16Therefore Hyrcanus feared, lest he should be the cause of their death; and he returned to his camp, still continuing the siege of Ptolemy. 17Now it happened, that the feast of tabernacles was at hand; wherefore Hyrcanus went into the city of the Holy House, that he might be present at the feast and the solemnity and the sacrifices. 18And when Ptolemy knew that he had departed to the Holy City, and was detained there, he seized upon the mother of Hyrcanus and his brothers, and slew them; and he fled into a placewhither Hyrcanus could not come.

**Chapter XXI**

*The history of the going up of Antiochus to the city of the Holy House, to fight with Hyrcanus.*

1Now when Antiochus had heard that Simeon was dead, he collected an army, and marched until he came to the city of the Holy House: 2And he encamped around it, and besieged it, designing to take it by force: but he could not, by reason of the height and strength of the walls, and the multitude of warriors who were in it. 3But by God's will he was restrained from *winning* it: for he had betaken himself to the northern side of the city, and had built there a hundred and thirty towers opposite to the wall; 4And had caused men to mount them, to fight with those who should endeavour to go up upon the walls of the city. 5He also appointed men to dig up the earth in a certain spot, till they came to the foundation of the wall: which finding to be of wood, they burned it with fire, and a very large portion of the wall fell down. 6And Hyrcanus' men opposed them, and prevented them from entering, keeping guard over the ruined portion; 7And Hyrcanus went out with the better part of his fighting men against the army of Antiochus, and defeated them with great slaughter. 8And Antiochus and his men were routed; whom Hyrcanus with his troops pursued, till they had driven them away from the city. 9Then, returning to the towers which Antiochus had built, they destroyed them; and abode in the city, and around it. 10But Antiochus encamped in a certain place, which was distant from the city of the house of God about two furlongs. 11And at the approach of the feast of tabernacles Hyrcanus sent ambassadors to him, to treat for a truce until the solemnity should be passed; which he granted him; and sent victims, and gold and silver, to the house of God. 12And Hyrcanus commanded the priests to receive what Antiochus had sent; and they did so. 13Now when Hyrcanus and the priests saw the reverence of Antiochus towards the temple of God, he sent ambassadors to him, to treat for peace. 14To which Antiochus agreed; and he went to Jerusalem: and Hyrcanus meeting him, they entered the city together. 15And Hyrcanus made a feast for Antiochus and his princes; and they did eat and drink together; and he made him a present of three hundred talents of gold: 16And each of them agreedwith his companion about peace and rendering assistance, and Antiochus departed into his own country. 17But it is related, that Hyrcanus opened the treasurywhich had been *made* by some kings of the sons of David, [to whom be peace,] and he brought out thence a great sum of money, and left as much in it, consigning it to its former state of secrecy. 18Then he built up and repaired that part of the wall which had fallen down; and he provided carefully for the convenience and advantage of his flock, and behaved himself uprightly towards them. 19Now when Antiochus had come into his own country, he determined to go and fight with the king of Persia, for he had revolted from the time of the first Antiochus: 20And he sent ambassadors to Hyrcanus, that he should go to him; and Hyrcanus went with him, and departed into the country of Persia. 21And an army of the Persians met him, and fought with him; whom Antiochus putting to flight defeated and put to the sword. 22Then he stayed in the place where he was, and erected a wonderful building, that it might be a memorial of him in their country. 23And after some time he went forward to meet the king of the Persians; and Hyrcanus remained behind, by reason of the sabbath, which Pentecost immediately followed. 24And the king of Persia and Antiochus met; and very great battles took place between them, in which Antiochus and many of his army were slain. 25And when news of this was brought to Hyrcanus, he marchedinto the country of Syria, 26And on his journey besieged Halepus; and the citizens surrendered to him, paying him tribute; and be departed from them and returned into the Holy City, and remained there for some days. 27Then he departed into the country of Samaria, and fought against Neapolis; but the citizens hindered him from entering into it. 28And he destroyed whatever buildings they had on mount Jezabel, and the temple; which was done two hundred years after that Sanballatthe Samaritan had built it. He also slew the priests who were in Sebaste. 29And he marched into the country of Idumaea, that is, the mountains Sarah, and they surrendered to him: with whom he stipulated that they should be circumcised and adopt the religion of Torah (*or the Mosaic law*). 30And they agreed with him, and were circumcised, and became Jews, and were confirmed in this *practice* even till the destruction of the second house. 31And Hyrcanus went on to all the surrounding nations; and they all submitted to him, and at the same time entered into an agreement of peace and obedience. 32He also sent ambassadors to the Romans, writing to them concerning the renewal of the leaguewhich was between them. 33When therefore his ambassadors had come to the Romans, they honoured them; and appointed them a seat of dignity; and gave attention to the embassy on account of which they had come; and despatched their business, and replied to his letter.

**Chapter XXII**

*The copy of the Roman letter to Hyrcanus.*

1“From the elder, and his three hundred and twenty governors, to Hyrcanus the king of Judah, health. 2Your letter has even now reached us, on reading which we rejoiced; and we have questioned your ambassadors concerning the state of your affairs. 3Also we have acknowledged their place of dignity in science, moral discipline, and the virtues; and we have honoured them, and made them sit in the presence of our elder: 4Who has been careful to transact all their business, giving command that all the cities which Antiochus had taken away by force should be restored to you; 5And that every obstacle to the exercise of your religion should be removed; and that all should be made void which Antiochus had decreed against you. 6He has also commanded that all the cities which he had taken should continue faithful *to you*; he has likewise given orders by letter to all his provinces, that your ambassadors should be treated with respect and honour. 7Moreover he has sent with them an ambassador to you named Cynaeus, bearing a letter; to whom also he has entrusted an embassy, that he might treat with you in person.”8Therefore when this epistle of the Romans had reached Hyrcanus, he began to be styled king, being formerly called high priest: and thus the royal and sacerdotal dignities were united in him. 9And he was the first who was called king among the chiefs of the Jews in the time of the second house.

**Chapter XXIII**

*The history of the wars of Hyrcanus with the Samaritans.*

1Now Hyrcanus marched to Sebaste, and besieged the Samaritanswho were therein, for a long time; till he reduced them to such straits, that they were compelled to feed upon every kind of dead carcass. 2Nevertheless they bore this patiently, fearing his sword, and trusting to the Macedonians and Egyptians, whose aid they had implored. 3In the mean time comes on the great fast, at which Hyrcanus must be present in the Holy House, to offer sacrifices on that day. 4Wherefore he substituted his two sons, Antigonus and Aristobulus, as commanders of the army; leaving them orders to besiege the Samaritans, and reduce them to extremities. 5Likewise he commanded the army to obey his sons, and to execute their orders: and he departed to the city of the Holy House. 6Moreover Antiochusthe Macedonian marched to help the inhabitants of Sebaste; and tidings of it were brought to the two sons of Hyrcanus; 7Who, having substituted a general to conduct the siege of Sebaste, went to meet Antiochus; whom they encountered and routed, and returned to Sebaste. 8There came likewise out of Egypt Lythras, the son of queen Cleopatra, to help the Samaritans. 9When news of this was brought to Hyrcanus, he went to meet him, the solemnity being now past: whom when he met, he encountered most fiercely, and slew very many of his men: and Lythras was put to flight; 10nor did the Egyptians any more after this return to give assistance to the Samaritans. 11And king Hyrcanus returned to Sebaste, and pressed sore on it, till he took it with the sword, and slew, those of its citizens who were remaining, and utterly destroyed it, and pulled down its walls.

**Chapter XXIV**

*The history of Lythras the son of Cleopatra, and of his marching out against his mother in Egypt.*

1Lythras the son of Cleopatra, having become strong in goods and in men, revolted from Cleopatra his mother; the chief men of the kingdom being his abettors. 2Therefore Cleopatra, having sent for two Jews, one of whom was called Chelcias, and the other Hananias, placed them at the head of those princes of Egypt who remained on her side, and made them both generals of the Egyptian army. 3Now they managed all matters well with the common people, and conducted the affairs of the empire with wisdom. 4Them, Cleopatra sent to fight with Lythras who going to him made war, and routed him, putting his men to flight: and he fled to Cyprus, and there remained, with a few who adhered to him.

**Chapter XXV**

*An account of the Jewish sects at this time.*

1At that time there were three sects among the Jews. One, of the Pharisees, that is, “the separated,” or religious; 2Whose rule it was, to maintain whatever was contained in the law, according to the expositions of their forefathers. 3The second, that of the Sadducees; and these are followers of a certain man of the doctors, by name Sadoc; 4Whose rule it was, to maintain according to the things found in the text of the law, and of which there is demonstration in the Scripture itself; but not that which is not extant in the text, nor is proved from it. 5The third sect was that of the Hasdanim, or those who studied the virtues: but the author of *this* bookdid not make mention of their rule*, nor do we know it except in* so far as it is discovered by their name: 6For they applied themselves to such practices as came near to the more eminent virtues; namely, to select from those two other rules whatever was most safe in belief, most sure and guarded. 7Hyrcanus at first was one of the Pharisees; afterwards he went over to the Sadducees; 8Because that one of the Pharisees had said to him, it is not lawful for you to be high priest, because your mother was a captive before she bare you, in the days of Antiochus: but it becometh not, that the son of a captive should be high priest. 9And this conversation took place in the presence of the chief men of the Pharisees; which was the cause of his going over to the rule of the Sadducees. 10Now the Sadducees were at enmity with the Pharisees; wherefore they kept up differences betwixt one another, and they prevailed on him so far, as to slay great numbers of the Pharisees. 11And the trouble came to such a height, that wars and many evils continued among them for a great length of time.

**Chapter XXVI**

*The account of Hyrcanus' death, and of the time of his reign.*

1Hyrcanus had three sons, namely, Antigonus, Aristobulus, and Alexander. 2And Hyrcanus loved Antigonus and Aristobulus; but Alexander was odious to him. 3And on a time he saw in a dream, that of his sons, Alexander would reign after his death; and this gave him uneasiness. 4And he did not think fit, while he lived, to set up either of the sons whom he loved, on account of his vision; nor to appoint Alexander king, because he was disliked by him. 5Wherefore he deferred the business; that after his death it, might take that turn which should please the great and good God. 6Now the Jews had been, in the time of his father and uncles, united in affection towards them; and prompt to obey them, on account of their subduing of their enemies, and the excellent feats which they performed. 7They also continued united in affection to Hyrcanus; until the slaughter of the Pharisees was committed by him, and the rooting out of the Jews, and the civil wars on account of religion. 8From hence sprung perpetual enmities, and ceaseless evils, and many murders. Which was the reason why many detested Hyrcanus. 9Now the time of his reign was thirty-oneyears, and he died.

**Chapter XXVII**

*The history of Aristobulus the son of Hyrcanus.*

1Hyrcanus being dead, his son Aristobulus succeeded him on the throne; who displayed haughtiness, pride, and power; and placed on his head a large crown, in contempt of the crown of the sacred priesthood. 2Now he was affectionately inclined towards his brother Antigonus, whom he preferred to all his friends: but his brother Alexander he kept in prison, as also his mother, by reason of her love for Alexander. 3And he sent his brother Antigonus, who fought against him, and conquered him, with all his abettors and troops, which he put to flight, and returned into the city of the Holy House. This happened while Aristobulus lay sick. 4When therefore Antigonus was on his way to the city, the sickness of his brother was reported to him; who, entering the city, went to the house of God to give thanks for the mercy shewn in his deliverance from the enemy, and to beseech the great and good God to restore health to his brother. 5Therefore certain of those who were adversaries and haters of Antigonus go to Aristobulus and say; 6In sooth the news of your sickness was carried to your brother, and behold he is coming with his partisans, armed; and is now gone into the sanctuary to make to himself friends, that he may come suddenly upon you and slay you. 7And king Aristobulus was afraid to take any hasty step against his brother respecting that which had been told him, till he should know the correctness of the intelligence. 8Wherefore he commanded all his attendants to post themselves armed in a certain place, from which whoever came to his palace could not turn aside. 9He likewise ordered it to be publicly proclaimed, that no one wearing arms of any kind should come to the king into the court, without being bidden. 10After this, he sent to Antigonus, ordering him to come to him: whereupon Antigonus took off his arms in obedience to the king. 11In the mean time there comes to him a messenger from the wife of his brotherAristobulus, (who hated him,) saying to him, 12“The king says to you, I have now heard of the beauty of your dress when you entered the city, and am desirous of beholding you thus habited; wherefore come to me in that form, that I may be gratified in seeing you.” 13And Antigonus doubted not that this message was from the king, as the messenger had reported; 14And that he did not wish to put him on the same footing with others as to the laying aside their arms: and he went to him in that manner and dress. 15And when he had come to that place in which king Aristobulus had commanded his men to post themselves, with orders to kill any person who should come thither armed; 16And when the men saw him wearing his arms; ? they rushed on him, and instantly slew him; and his blood flowed over the marble *pavement* on that spot. 17And the cry of men grew loud, and their weeping and lamentation was magnified, grieving over the death of Antigonus, for his beauty, and the elegance of his discourse, and his exploits. 18So the king, hearing the noise of the men, enquired concerning it; and found that Antigonus had been slain; 19Which caused him the greatest sorrow, both for the affection which he bare towards him, and because he did not deserve this fate: and he perceived that a snare had been laid for his brother: 20And he cried aloud, and wept exceedingly; and smote his breast unceasingly; so that some blood-vessels of his breast were burst, and the blood flowed out of his mouth. 21But his attendants and the chief of his friends came to him, consoling him, and appeasing and soothing him, so as to restrain him from this action; 22Being apprehensive that he would die, as he was weak, and was almost expiring under that which he had *already* done. 23And they took a golden basin, to receive the blood which gushed forth at his mouth; 24And they sent the basin, with the blood which was in it, by one of the attendants to a physician, that he might see it, and advise what was to be done for him. 25And the page went with the basin: and when he came to the lace where Antigonus had been slain, and his blood had flowed about, the page slipped, and fell; and spilled the king’s blood which was in the basin over the blood of his murdered brother. 26And the page returned with the basin, and told the courtiers what had happened; who abused and reviled him; while he justified himself, and swore that he had not designedly or voluntarily done this. 27But when the king heard them quarrelling, he asked to be told what they were saying: and they held their tongues: but when he threatened them, they told him. 28Who then said, “Praise be to the Just Judge, who hath shed the blood of the oppressor over the blood of the oppressed.” 29Then he groaned, and forthwith expired. And the time of his reign was one full year. 30And all his flock lamented him; for he was noble-minded victorious, and liberal: and his brother Alexander reigned in his stead.

**Chapter XXVIII**

*The account of Alexander the son of Hyrcanus.*

1After that Aristobulus was dead, his brother Alexander was released from his fetters; and being brought out of prison, succeeded to the throne. 2Now the governor of the city Acche *(which is Ptolemais)* had rebelled; and had sent messengers to Lythras the son of Cleopatra, requesting that he would aid him, and take him under his protection; 3But he for a long time refused, fearing *a recurrence of* the things which he had before sufferedfrom Hyrcanus. 4But the messenger gave him courage by means of the succours promised by the lord of Tyre, of Sidon, and others. And Lythras marched with thirty thousand men: 5And the report of it was brought to Alexander, who anticipated him at Ptolemais, and attacked it; and the citizens of Ptolemais shut the gate in his face and endeavoured to keep him out. 6Wherefore Alexander straitened them and continued to besiege them; until he was informed of the marching of Lythras: then he retired from before them, Lythras with his troops being at hand. 7Now there was among the citizens of Ptolemais an old manof acknowledged authority, who persuaded the citizens not to permit Lythras to enter their city, nor to take on themselves obedience to him, since he was of a different religion. 8He also said to them, “Far more advantageous to you in every way will be submission to Alexander, who is of the same religion, than submission to Lythras.” Nor did he cease, until they agreed to his sentiments. 9And they prevented Lythras from entering Ptolemais, refusing submission to him. And Lythras was perplexed in, his affairs, nor did he take counsel what best for him to do. 10And this was told to the king of Sidonand he sent messengers to him, that he should help him in the war against Alexander; that either they might defeat him, or *take* some of his cities, and thus punish him; 11And thus Lythras might return into his own country, after performing deeds which might render him formidable; which in truth would be more to his advantage than to return without having effected his purpose. 12And this was told to Alexander; who sent to Lythras an honourable embassy with a very valuable present, and proposed to him not to aid the king of Sidon. 13And Lythras accepted Alexander’s present, agreeing to his request. 14But Alexander marched to Sidon, and fought against its sovereign; and God made him victorious over him, and he slew great numbers of his men; and having put him to flight, gained possession of his country. 15After this, Alexander sent messengers to Cleopatra, that she should come with an army against Lythras her son; and that he also would march with his army against him, and would deliver him a prisoner to her. 16Which, when Lythras found out, he departed into the mountain of Galilee, and slew great numbers of the inhabitants, and carried away ten thousand captives: a great number of his own men also were slain. 17From thence he marched even till he came to Jordan, and there encamped; that his men and horses might rest themselves, and afterwards he might march to Jerusalem to fight with Alexander. 18This was told to Alexander; who went against him with fifty thousand men, of whom six thousand had shields of brass: and it is said that each of those could resist any number of men. 19And he attacked him at the Jordan, and engaged with him there; but did not obtain the victory, because he trusted in his men, and had placed his confidence in their number. 20But with Lythras there were men very skilful in battlesand in drawing up armies; who advised him to divide his forces into two parts, so that one might be with Lythras and his company prepared for battle, and the other part might be with another captain of their company. 21And he fought even until noon, and great numbers of his men were slain. 22And his friend advanced, with the remainder of the army which was with him, whose strength was yet entire, against Alexander and his men, who were by this time overcome with fatigue: 23And he dealt with them as he pleased, and slew great multitudes of them; and Alexander and the men who had remained with him fled into the city of the Holy House. 24Lythras also departed towards evening into a certain town near at hand; and by chance some Jewish women with their children met him; 25And he commanded some of the children to be killed, and their flesh to be dressed, pretending that there were some in his army who fed on human flesh; designing by these acts to strike the inhabitants of the country with a dread of his troops. 26After this came Cleopatra; whom Alexander met, and told her what Lythras had done to his army, and appointed to go with her in search of him. 27Which being told to Lythras, he fled to a place where was a station of his ships; going on board which, he returned to Cyprus; and Cleopatra returned into Egypt. 28But at the end of the year Alexander marched against Gaza; because its chiefhad revolted from him, and had sent to a certain king of the Arabians named Hartas, to assist him; who consented to do so, and marched towards Gaza: 29This was told to Alexander; who leaving some of his men before Gaza, marched against Hartas, and engaged him, and put him to flight. 30Then he returned to Gaza, and lying sore upon it, took it at the end of a year. 31But the cause of his taking it was the brother of that chief; who coming suddenly on him, slew him. 32When the citizens sought to kill him, he collected his friends, and went to the gate of the city, and addressed Alexander, begging that on giving security for his life and the lives of his friends, he would enter the city; 33Which Alexander promising, entered Gaza, and slew its inhabitants, and overthrew the temple which was in it, and burned the gilded idol which was in the temple. 34After which he departed to the city of the Holy House, and there celebrated the feast of tabernacles. 35And when the feast was past, he made himself ready against Hartas, whom he encountered, and slew a great number of his men: 36And Hartas’ affairs were much straitened and crippled, and he feared his own utter extinction. Wherefore suing to Alexander for his life, he yielded him obedience, and paid him tributes. 37And Alexander departed from him, and marched against Hemathand Tyre, and took them; and having received tribute from the inhabitants, he returned into the city of the Holy House.

**Chapter XXIX**

*An account of the battles which took place between the Pharisees and Sadducees.*

1Afterwards evils arose between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and continued by the space of six years. 2And Alexander helped the Sadducees against the Pharisees, of whom there were slain within six years fifty thousand. 3Wherefore between these two sects the state of things was reduced to utter destruction, and their, enmity was completely confirmed. 4So Alexander, having sent for the elder men of each sect, spoke kindly to them, and advised a reconciliation. 5But they answered him, “In truth you, in our opinion, are worthy of death, for the abundance of innocent blood *which you have shed:* wherefore let there be nothing between us but the sword.” 6Then after this, they began to shew their enmity openly, sending messengers to Demetrius*the king* of Macedon, that he should come to them with an army; 7Promising that they would assist him against Alexander and his party, and would reduce the Hebrews to submission to the Macedonians. And Demetrius marched to them with a large army. 8Which also was told to Alexander; who sent a person to hire six thousand Macedonians, whom joining to his own forces he advanced against Demetrius. 9Many also of the Jews, Pharisees, went over to Demetrius. 10And Demetrius sent secretly persons to those Macedonians who were with Alexander, to seduce them from him; but they hearkened not unto him. 11Alexander also sent secretly men to the Jews who were with Demetrius, to turn them to his side; but neither did these do as he would have them. 12And Alexander and Demetrius met, and fought a battle; in which all Alexander's men fell, and he escaped alone into the land of Judah. 13But when his men heard it whispered that he had escaped in safety, and found out the place where he was; 14There assembled unto him about six thousand men of the bravest of the sons of Israel; and many of those, who had revolted to Demetrius, joined themselves to him. 15Afterwards men flocked to him from every side; and he returned to give battle to Demetrius with a numerous force, and put him to flight: and Demetrius returned into his own country. 16And Alexander marched against him to Antioch, and besieged it three years: and when Demetrius came out to fight, Alexander conquered him and slew him: 17And he departed from the city, and returned to Jerusalem to his citizens; who magnified him, honouring and praising him for having defeated his enemies. 18And the Jews agreed to submit to him, and his a heart was at rest: and he sent his armies against all his enemies, whom he put to flight, and gained the victory over them. 19He also gained possession of the mountains of Sarab, and the country of Ammon, and Moab, and the country of the Philistines, and all the parts which were in the hands of the Arabians who fought with him, even to the bounds of the desert. 20And the affairs of his kingdom were ruled aright; and he placed his people and his country in a state of safety.

**Chapter XXX**

*The account of the death of Alexander the son of Hyrcanus.*

1Afterwards king Alexander fell sick with a quartan fever, for three whole years. 2But when the governor of a city named Ragabarevolted from him, he led thither a powerful army, taking with him his wife and family, and besieged the city. 3But when it was on the point of being taken, his disease increased and his strength declined; and his wife, who was named Alexandra, lost all hope of his recovery: 4Who going up to him said; “You know now what differences there are between you and the Pharisees: and your two sons are little boys, and I am a woman, and altogether we shall not be able to resist them: what advice therefore do you give to me and them?” 5He said to her, “My advice is, that you persevere against the city till it be taken, which will be shortly. 6And when it shall have been won, establish its government according as the other cities have been established. 7But towards all these people, pretend that I am sick; and whatever you do, pretend that you do it at my suggestion; and reveal my death to those servants on whom you can depend. 8And when you shall have finished these matters, go into the city of the Holy House, having previously dried and embalmed my body with spices; and fill the place where I lie with many perfumes, that no unpleasant smell may proceed from me. 9And when the affairs of the country are settled, go thence, and roll me up in abundance of perfumes, and carry me into the palace, as if sick: 10And when I am there, send for the principal men of the Pharisees; and when they come, honour them, and speak good words to them: 11Then say, Alexander is already dead, and behold I give him up to you, do with him whatever seems good to you: and I from henceforth will behave to you as you shall please. 12For if you do this, I know very well that they will do nothing to me and you, except that which is good; and the people will follow them, and your affairs will be ordered aright after my death, and you will reign securely until your two sons be grown up.” 13After this, Alexander died; and his wife concealed his death; and when the city was taken, she returned to Jerusalem; and having sent for the chief men of the Pharisees, she addressed them as Alexander had advised her. 14To whom they replied, that Alexander had been their king, and they had been his people; and they spoke to her with all affection, and promised to place her at the head of their government. 15Then they went out and collected men; and taking Alexander's body, they carried it forth magnificently to its burial: and they sent for men to appoint Alexandra queen; with whose concurrence she was go appointed. 16And the years of Alexander's reign were twenty-seven.

**Chapter XXXI**

*The history of queen Alexandra.*

1Now while Alexandra reigned, she called to her the chief men of the Pharisees, and commanded them to write to all those of their sect who had fledinto Egypt and other parts, in the days of Hyrcanus and of Alexander, that they should return into the land of Judah. 2And she shewed them her favourable inclination towards them, and did not oppose herself to their rites, nor forbid their ceremonies, as Alexander and Hyrcanus had forbidden them. 3She also released all of them who were detained in prison. 4And they came together from every quarter; and the Sadducees forbore offering them any violence. 5And their affairs were well ordered, and their condition became improved by the removal of quarrels. 6But when Hyrcanus and Aristobulus the two sons of Alexander grew up, *the queen* made Hyrcanus high priest, for he was meek, mild, and honest: 7But Aristobulus she made general of the army, for he was stout, brave, and high-spirited; and she also gave to him the army of the Sadducees: but she did not think it meet to appoint him king, as he was still a boy. 8Moreover she sent to all those who paid tribute to Alexander, and took their kings’ sons, whom she detained near her as hostages; and they continued uninterruptedly in their obedience to her, paying tribute every year. 9And she walked uprightly with her people, distributing justice, and commanding her people to do the same. Wherefore there was a lasting peace between the parties, and she gained their good-will.

**Chapter XXXII**

*An account of the things which were done to the Sadducees by the Pharisees in the time of Alexandra.*

1There was among the Sadducees a chief man, who had been promoted by Alexander, named Diogenes, who formerly had induced him to slay eight hundredmen of the Pharisees. 2Therefore the leaders of the Pharisees come to Alexandra, and remind her of what Diogenes had done, asking her leave to slay him; which she gave: and they, having it, slew many Sadducees together with him. 3Which the Sadducees taking very much to heart, went to Aristobulus; and, taking him with them, went to the queen, and said to her: 4”You are aware what terrible and heavy things we have undergone, and the many wars and battles which we have fought, in aid of Alexander and his father Hyrcanus. 5Wherefore it was not meet to trample on our rights, and to lift up the hand of our enemies over us, and to lower our dignities; 6For a matter of this kind will not be hidden from Hartas and others of your enemies; who have experienced our bravery, and have not been able to resist us, and their hearts have been filled with the fear of us. 7When therefore they shall perceive what you have done to us, they will imagine that our hearts are devising plans against you; of which when they shall be certified, trust that they will play false towards you. 8Nor will we endure to be killed by the Pharisees, like sheep. 9Therefore, either restrain their malice from us, or allow us to go out from the city into some of the towns of Judah.” 10And she said to them, “Do this, that their annoyance to you may be prevented.” 11And the Sadducees went forth of the city; and their chiefs departed with the men of war who adhered to them; and went with their cattle to those of the towns of Judah which they had selected, and dwelt in them; 12And there were joined to them those who were devoted to virtue, (i.e. *the Hasdanim).*

**Chapter XXXIII**

*The account of the death of Alexandra.*

1After these things, Alexandra fell into a disease, of which she died. 2And when her recovery was almost despaired of, her son Aristobulus went out from Jerusalem by night, attended by his servant: 3And he departed to Gabatha, to a certain chief man among the Sadducees, one of his friends; 4and, taking him with him, he proceeded to the cities where the Sadducees dwelt; and opened to them his purpose, and exhorted them to go out with him, and to be his allies in war against his brother and the Pharisees, and to appoint him king. 5To whom they assenting, openly played false with Alexandra, collecting men from every quarter to join Aristobulus. 6When the fame of these things reached Hyrcanus the son of Alexandra, the high priest, and the elders of the Pharisees, they went to Alexandra, sick as she was, and related the matter to her. 7Pressing on her the great fear that they had for her and her son Hyrcanus, from Aristobulus and those who were with him. 8To whom she answered, “I truly am near death, so that it is more proper and profitable for me to attend to my own affairs; what therefore can I do, being situated thus? 9But my men, and my goods, and my arms, are with you and in your hands; therefore, order the business as it seems to you right, imploring the aid of God upon your matters, and asking deliverance from Him.” Then she died. 10The amount of her age was seventy-three years; and the time of her reign nine years.

**Chapter XXXIV**

*The account of Aristobulus’ attack on his brother Hyrcanus, after Alexandra's death.*

1When Aristobulus departed from Jerusalem in the days of Alexandra, he left his wife and children in Jerusalem. 2But when the news of his departure reached Alexandra, she confined them in a certain house, setting a guard over them. 3But when Alexandra was dead, Hyrcanus called them to him, and behaved kindly to them, and took care of them; that they might deliver him from his brother, if haply he should conquer him. 4Then Aristobulus led out a great army as far as to Jordan; and Hyrcanus went out against him with an army of Pharisees. 5And when the two armies had encountered, great numbers of Hyrcanus' army were slain; and Hyrcanus, and the remainder of his army, took to flight. 6Whom Aristobulus and his troops pursuing, slew every one whom they caught, excepting those who surrendered themselves. 7Then Hyrcanus retreated into the Holy City; whither also arrived Aristobulus and his army; and he surrounded it on every side with his tents, and attempted by stratagem to destroy the fortification. 8And the elders of Judah, and the elders of the priests, went out to him, and forbade his doing what he had designed; requesting him to dismiss from his mind whatever hostile feeling he had towards his brother: to which proposal he assented. 9Then it was agreed between them that Aristobulus should be king over Judah, and Hyrcanus should be high priestin the house of God, and next to the king *in dignity.* 10And Aristobulus assented to these terms, and entered the city, and had an interview with his brother in the house of God; and they took an oath together to ratify those terms which the elders had mutually agreed on. 11So Aristobulus was made king, and Hyrcanus was ranked next unto him. 12And men were at peace, and the affairs of these two brothers were rightly ordered, and the state of their people and of their country became one of tranquillity.

**Chapter XXXV**

*The account of Antipater, (that is, Herod the king,) and of the seditions and battles which he kindled between Hyrcanus and Aristobulus.*

1There was a man of the Jews, of the sonsof certain of those who went up out of Babylon with Ezra the priest, *named* Antipater. 2And he was wise, prudent, acute, brave, and high-minded, of a good disposition, kind, and courteous; also rich, and possessing many houses, goods, and flocks. 3This man king Alexander had made governor of the country of the Idumaeans, from whence he had taken a wife; by whom he had four sons, namely, Phaselus, Herod, who reigned over Judah, Pheroras, and Josephus. 4Afterwards, being removed from the mountains of Sarah, that is, the country of the Idumaeans, in the days of Alexander, he dwelt in the city of the Holy House: 5And Hyrcanus loved him and was much inclined towards him; wherefore Aristobulus sought to kill, him; which, however, he did not accomplish. 6So, Antipater was excessively afraid of Aristobulus, and for that reason began secretly to plot, against Aristobulus’ kingdom. 7He went therefore to the principal men of the kingdom, and having gotten from them a pledge of secrecy respecting the matters which he was about to communicate, 8He began to talk to them of the infamous life of Aristobulus, his tyranny, his impiety, and the bloodshed which he had caused, and his usurpation of the throne, of which his elder brother was more worthy. 9Then he bade them ware of the great and good God, unless they took away the tyrant’s ruling hand, and restored what was due to their rightful sovereign. 10Nor was there left a single one of the chief men, whom he did not overreach, and incline to submit to Hyrcanus, seducing them from their obedience to Aristobulus, Hyrcanus knowing nothing of the matter: 11But Antipater ascribedall this to him, being unwilling to tell him before he had established the thing. 12Therefore, when he had fully settled this business with the people, he went to Hyrcanus, and said to him; 13Truly your brother is greatly afraid of you, because he sees that his estate will be nowise secure while you are alive; on which account he is seeking about for an opportunity to slay you, and will not suffer you to live. 14But Hyrcanus did not give credence to him, because of the goodness and sincerity of his heart. Wherefore Antipater repeated this discourse to him again and again. 15Also he gave large sums of money to the persons in whom Hyrcanus placed confidence, and agreed with them that they should tell him similar things to what Antipater had mentioned; 16Only *taking care* that he should not imagine that they knew that Antipater had been speaking to him *on* *the subject.* 17So Hyrcanus believed their words; and was induced to devise a plan by which he might be delivered from his brother. 18When therefore Antipater spoke again to him of the matter, he informed him that the truth of his words was now manifest to him, and that he knew that he had advised him well; and he asked his counsel in this affair. 19And Antipater advised him to go out of the city to some one in whom he could confide, and who might be able to aid and assist him. 20And Antipater went to Hartam, and agreed with him that he should receive Hyrcanus as a guest when he came, since he was rather afraid of dwelling with his brother. 21At which Hartam rejoiced, and came into the plan, and agreed with Antipater that in no case would he deliver up Hyrcanus and Antipater to their enemies, and that he would assist and protect them. 22And he returned to Jerusalem, and made known to Hyrcanus what he had done, and *how* he had agreed with Hartam concerning their going to him. 23Wherefore both of them went out of the city by night, and went to Hartam, and remained with him for some time. 24Then Antipater began to persuade Hartam to lead forth an army with Hyrcanus, to reduce and capture his brother Aristobulus. 25But Hartam declined prosecuting this plan, fearing that he had not strength to resist Aristobulus. 26But Antipater ceased not to shew him that the business with Aristobulus was easy, and to urge him to it by arguments of the treasure *to* *be gained,* and by the greatness of glory *which he would acquire,* and the memory *which he would leave behind him*: 27Until he consented to march; yet upon condition that Hyrcanus would restore to him whatever cities and townsbelonging to him his father Alexander had taken away. 28To which Hyrcanus agreeing and completing the treaty, Hartam marched (and Hyrcanus with him) with fifty thousand horse and foot soldiers, bending his course to the country of Judah: against whom Aristobulus went forth and engaged them. 29And when the fight had become fierce, many of Aristobulus’ army went over to Hyrcanus. 30Which Aristobulus perceiving, sounded a retreat, and returned to his camp, fearing lest his whole army should gradually slip away *to the enemy,* and thus he himself should be taken prisoner. 31But when night was coming on, Aristobulus departed from the camp alone, and went to the Holy City. 32And when on break of day his departure became known to the army, the greater part of them joined themselves to Hyrcanus, and the rest dispersed and went their ways. 33But Hyrcanus, Hartam, and Antipater, went straight to the city of the Holy House, carrying with them a large army; 34And they found Aristobulus already prepared for a siege; for he had closed the gates of the city, and had placed men on the ramparts to defend them. 35And Hyrcanus and Hartam encamped with their forces against the city, and besieged it.

**Chapter XXXVI**

*The history of Gneus, general of the army, of the Romans.*

1Now it happened, that Gneus, general of the army of the Romans, went forth to fight with Tyrcanesthe Armenian: 2For the citizens of Damascus, and Hames, and Halepum, and the rest of them of Syria who are belonging to the Armenians, had lately rebelled against the Romans: 3And on that account Gneus had sent Scaurus to Damascus and to its territories, to take possession of them; which thing was told to Aristobulus and Hyrcanus. 4Therefore Aristobulus sent ambassadors to Scaurus, and much money, requesting him to come to him with an army, and assist him against Hyrcanus. 5Hyrcanus also sent ambassadors to him, requesting his aid against Aristobulus; but he did not send him a present. 6But Scaurus refused to go to either of them: but he wrote to Hartam, ordering him to retire with his army from the city of the Holy House, and forbade him to give help to Hyrcanus against his brother; 7And threatened that he would come into his country with an army of Romans and Syrians, unless he obeyed. 8Now when this letter had reached Hartam, he immediately retired from the city: 9Hyrcanus also retreated; whom Aristobulus pursued with a certain number of his troops, and overtook them, and engaged them: and a great number of the Arabians were slain in that battle, and very many of the Jews: and Aristobulus returned into the Holy City. 10In the mean time, Gneus reached Damascus; to whom Aristobulus sent, by the hand of a man named Nicomedes, a garden and vineyardof gold, altogether weighing five hundred talents, with a most rich present; and besought him to assist him against Hyrcanus. 11Hyrcanus also sent Antipater to Pompey, with the like request. 12And Pompey (who is Gneus) was inclined to help Aristobulus. 13Which when Antipater saw, he watched ail opportunity that he might speak with Pompey alone, and said to him: 14”In truth, that *present* which you have received from Aristobulus needs not be restored to him, even though you should not assist him; 15Yet Hyrcanus offers you twice so much: and Aristobulus will not be able to bring the Jews into subjection to you, but this Hyrcanus will do.” 16And Pompey supposed the matter to be so as Antipater had said; and rejoiced *to* *think* that he could bring the Jews under his dominion. 17Wherefore he said to Antipater, “I will assist your friend against Aristobulus; although I may pretend to help him against you, that he may entrust himself to me. 18For I am sure, that as soon as he shall find out that I am giving aid to his brother against him, he will play false with all his men, and will take care of himself, and his business will be much longer delayed. 19But I will send for him, and will go with him into the Holy City, and then will so act that your friend shall obtain his right; but with this condition, that he shall pay us an annual tribute.”

The Messenger of Aristobulus

20After this, having sent for Nicomedes, he said to, him; “Go to your master, and tell him, that I have consented to his request; and carry him my letter, and say to him, that he must come to me in haste without delay, for I am waiting for him.” 21And he wrote a letter to Aristobulus, of which this is a copy: 22”From Gneus, general of the army of the Romans, to king Aristobulus, heir to the throne and high-priesthood, health be to you. 23Your garden and vine of gold have arrived; and I have received them, and have sent them to the elder and governors; which they have accepted and have placed in the templeat Rome, returning you thanks. 24They have written, moreover that I should assist you, and appoint you king over the Jews. 25If therefore you think fit to come to me with all speed, that I may go up with you to the Holy City, and fulfil your wishes, I will do so.” 26And Nicomedes departed to Aristobulus with the letter of Gneus. And Antipater, returning to Hyrcanus, told him of the promise of Gneus, advising him to go to Damascus. 27So Hyrcanus went to Damascus: Aristobulus went also: and they met at Damascus in the audience-room of Pompey, (that is, Gneus;) and Antipater and the elders of the Jews said to Gneus; 28”Know, most illustrious general, that this Aristobulus has been dealing falsely towards us, and has usurped by the sword the kingdom of his brother Hyrcanus, who is more worthy of it *than he,* seeing that he is the elder brother, and of a better and more correct way of life. 29And it was not enough for him to oppress his brother, but he has oppressed all the nations which are round about us; shedding their blood and pillaging their goods unjustly, and keeping up enmities between us and them, a thing which we abhor.” 30Then stood up a thousand aged men, attesting the truth of his words. 31And Aristobulus said, “Truly this my brother is a better man than I but I did not seek for the throne, until I saw that all those who had been subject to our father Alexander were dealing falsely with us after his death, knowing the inability of my brother. 32Which when I looked into, I perceived that it was my duty to undertake the sovereignty, in that I was better *than he* in matters of war, and by that was better suited for preserving the monarchy: 33And I went to war with all those who dealt falsely with us, and reduced them to obedience: and this was the command of our father before his death.” 34And he brought forward witnesses who attested the truth of his words. 35After these things Pompey departed from the city Damascus, journeying to the Holy House. 36But Antipater sent privately to the inhabitants of the cities which Aristobulus had won, exciting them to complain to Gneus, setting forth the tyranny which he had exercised over them, which thing they did. 37And Gneus ordered him to write them a testimonial of their freedom, and to say that he would in no wise trouble them more; which truly he did, and the nations were released from their obedience to the Jews. 38But when Aristobulus saw what Gneus had done to him, he and his men departed by night from Gneus’ army without acquainting him with it, and went on to the city of the Holy House: 39And Gneus followed him till he came to the city of the Holy House, around which he encamped. 40But when he beheld the height of the walls, and the strength of its buildings, and the multitude of men who were in it, and the mountains which encircled it, he perceived that flattery and cunning would be more serviceable against Aristobulus than acts of provocation: 41Wherefore he sent ambassadors to him, that he should come out to him, promising him safe conduct: and Aristobulus went out to him; whom Gneus received kindly, not saying a word about his former doings. 42After this Aristobulus said to Gneus, “ I wish that you would aid me against my brother, giving my enemies no power over me; and for this you shall have whatsoever you wish.” 43Gneus replied, “If you wish this, bring to me whatever money and precious stones are in the temple, and I will put you in possession of what you wish.” And Aristobulus said to him, 44”Undoubtedly this I will do.” And Gneus sent a captain named Gabiniuswith a great number of men, to receive whatever of gold and jewels there was in the temple. 45But the citizens and the priests refused to permit this: wherefore they resisted Gabinius, killing many of his men and of his friends, and drove him out of the city. 46Upon which, Gneus, being wrath with Aristobulus, threw him into prison. 47Then he marched with his army, to force his way into the city and enter it. But a great body of the citizens going forth, hindered him from doing this, by slaying great numbers of his men. 48And in truth, the numbers, the spirit, and the bravery of the nation, which he had seen, frightened him; so that, being alarmed at these, he had resolved to retire from them, had not mischievous quarrels arisen in the city between the friends of Aristobulus and the friends of Hyrcanus. 49For some of them wished to open the gates to Pompey, but others were averse to this. Wherefore they came to blows on this account; and as this state of things increased *rather than diminished,* the war continued. 50Which Pompey noticing, beset with his army the gate of the city: and as some of the people opened a wicket to him, he entered, and took possession of the king's palace; but could not gain the temple, because the priests had closed the doors, and had secured the approaches by *armed* men. 51Against these he sent men to attack them from every side, and they put them to flight. And his friends coming to the temple, mounted the wall and descended into it, and opened its gates, after slaying a multitude of priests. 52Then Gneus came, and entered into it, and greatly admired its beauty and magnificence which he beheld, and was astonished when he saw its riches and the precious stones which were in it: 53And he forbore to take any thing out of it; and he commanded the priests to cleanse the house from the slain, and to offer sacrifices according to the ceremonies of their country.

**Chapter XXXVII**

*The account of the appointment of Hyrcanus the son of Alexander to be king of the Jews, and of the return to Rome of the general of the Roman army.*

1Having arranged these matters, Pompey appointed Hyrcanus to be king; and carried away his brother Aristobulus in chains: 2He also ordered that the Jews should have no dominionover those *nations* who had been subdued by their kings before his arrival; 3And he exacted a tribute from the city of the Holy House; and covenanted with Hyrcanus, that he should receive inauguration from the Romans every year. 4And he departed, taking with him Aristobulus, and two of his sons, and his daughters: and he had a son. remaining, named Alexander, whom Pompey could not seize, because he had fled. 5So Pompey placed in his room in the city of the Holy House, Hyrcanus, and Antipater, and with them his own colleague Scaurus.

**Chapter XXXVIII**

*The history of Alexander the son of Aristobulus.*

1When Pompey had set out for Rome, Hyrcanus and Antipater marched against the Arabians, to bring them under the dominion of the Romans. 2To which the Arabians submitted, trusting to their intimacy with Antipater, and paying great regard to his advice; by which acts Antipater designed to reconcile the Romans to him. 3Therefore when Alexander the son of Aristobulus perceived the expedition of Hyrcanus, Antipater, and Scaurus, against the Arabians, and that they had departed to a great distance from the Holy City; 4He journeyed till he arrived there; and entering into the palace, he brought out thence money for the expense of repairing the city-wall which Pompey had broken down. 5And he raised for himself an army, and arranged all those matters which he wished, before Hyrcanus and his party should return to the city of the Holy House: 6And when they returned, he went out to meet them, and engaged them, and put them to flight.

**Chapter XXXIX**

*The history of Gabinius and of Alexander the son of Aristobulus.*

1Now Gabiniushad gone out from Rome, to dwell in the land of Syria, to take care of it; 2And it was told him what Alexander the son of Aristobulus had done, by building up that which Pompey had pulled down, and by opposing his successor, and slaying his friends. 3Wherefore he went straight until he came to Jerusalem ; and Hyrcanus and his party joined him. 4Against whom Alexander went out with ten thousand foot and fifteen hundred horse, and encountered them: 5And they routed him, and slew a certain number of his friends; and he fled into a certain city in the land of Judah, called Alexandrium, in which he fortified himself with his company. 6And Hyrcanus, and Gabinius, and their forces, marched against him and besieged him. 7And Alexander went out against them, and engaged them, and slew great numbers of their men. 8And Marcus, who is called Antonius, marched against him, and forced him to flee again into Alexandrium. 9And Alexander's mother went out to Gabinius, deprecating *his anger,* and imploring him to grant her son Alexander his life: 10To whom Gabinius assented in this point; and Alexander went out to him; and Gabinius put him to death; and thought proper to divide the territories of Judah into five portions. 11One is, the country of Jerusalem and the parts adjacent; and over this part Hyrcanus was made governor. Another portion is Gadira, and the places about it. 12The third is, Jericho and the plains. The fourth is, Hamathin the land of Judah. And the fifth is, Sephoris. 13By these means he intended to remove wars and seditions out of the land of Judah; but they were by no means removed.

**Chapter XL**

*The history of the flight of Aristobulus and his son Antigonus from Rome, and their return into the land Judah: also, an account of the death of Aristobulus.*

1Then Aristobulus devised plans, till he had succeeded in escaping from Rome with his son Antigonus, and had arrived in the city of Judah. 2And when Aristobulus shewed himself in public, a great multitude of men flocked round him; out of whom he selected eight thousand, and marched against Gabinius, and engaged him; and there were slain of the Roman army a very great number: 3There fell also of his own men seven thousand, but one thousand escaped; and the enemy's army pursued him; but he and they who were left to him ceased not to resist even till the total destruction of his men; 4Nor was there one left but he alone; and he fought most furiously until he fell overpowered by wounds, and was taken and led to Gabinius; who ordered him to be taken care of until he was healed. 5Then he sent him in chains to Rome. [And he remained shut up in prison until the reign of Caesar; who broughthim out of prison, and loaded him with gifts and favours; 6And giving to him two generals and twelve thousand men, sent him into the land of Judah, to detach the Jews from Pompey’s party, and bring them over to obey Caesar: for Pompey at that time was governor of the land of Egypt. 7And the report of Aristobulus and his party reached Hyrcanus; who was greatly afraid, and wrote to Antipater to avert his power from him by his customary devices. 8So Antipater sent some of the chief men of Jerusalem, giving to one of them poison, charging him to administer it craftily to Aristobulus. 9And they met him in the land of Syria, as though they were ambassadors to him from the Holy City: and he received them joyfully, and they did eat and drink with him. 10And those men laid plots till they gave him the poison; and he died, and was buried in the land of Syria. 11Now the time of his reign, until he was taken prisoner the first time, was three years and a half ; and he was a man of courage, weight, and excellent disposition.] 12Now Gabinius had written to the senate, to send away his two sons to their mother, since she had requested it; which they did. 13But it came to pass, that when Pompey had departed to a great distance from Jerusalem, they broke their engagement of obedience to the Romans: 14Wherefore Gabinius went against them, encountered them, and conquered them, and reduced them again to submission to the Romans.15In the mean time the land of Egypt rebelled against Ptolemy, and expelled him from his royal city, refusing to pay tribute to the Romans. 16Whereupon Ptolemy wrote to Gabinius that he should come and help him against the Egyptians, that he might bring them again into subjection to the Romans. 17And Gabinius marched out of the country of Syria, and wrote to Hyrcanus to meet him with an army, that they might go to Ptolemy. 18And Antipater went with a large army to Gabinius, and met him at Damascus, congratulating with him on the victory which he had gained over the Persians: 19And Gabinius ordered him to hasten to Ptolemy, which he did, and fought against the Egyptians, and slew of them a very great number. 20Afterwards Gabinius coming up, replaced Ptolemy on his throne, and went back to the Holy City, and renewed Hyrcanus’ sovereignty, and returned to Rome.

**Chapter XLI**

*The history of Crassus.*

1When Gabinius had returned to Rome, the Persiansplayed false to the Romans; 2And Crassusmarched with a large army into Syria, and came to Jerusalem, requiring of the priests that they should deliver to him whatever money there was in the house of God. 3To whom they made answer, how will this be lawful for you, when Pompey, Gabinius, and others have deemed it unlawful? But he answered, I must do it at all events. 4And Eleazar the priest said to him, Swear to me that you will not lay your hand upon anything that belongs to it, and I will give you three hundred minae of gold. 5And he swore to him that he would take nothing from the treasure of the house of God, if he would deliver to him what he had mentioned. 6And Eleazar gave him a bar of wrought gold, the upper part of which had been inserted into the wall of the treasury of the temple, upon which were placed every year the old veils of the house, new ones being substituted for them. 7And the bar weighed three hundred minaeof gold, and it was covered with the veils which were accumulated during a long course of years, being known to no one besides Eleazar. 8Crassus then, having received this bar, broke his word, going back from the agreement made with Eleazar; and he took all the treasures of the temple, and plundered whatever money was therein, to the amount of two thousand talents: 9For this money had been accumulating from the building of the temple until that time, out of the spoils of the kings of Judah and their offerings, and also from the presents which the kings of the Gentileshad sent; 10And they were multiplied and increased in the lapse of years; all which he took. 11Then that *vile* Crassus went off with the money and his army into the country of the Persians; and they defeated himand his army in battle, slaying them in a single day: 12And the Persian army took as spoil every thing which was in the camp of Crassus. 13After this feat, they marched into the country of Syria, which they won, and detached from its submission to the Romans. 14Which the Romans learning, sent a renowned general named Cassiuswith a great army: who, arriving in the country of Syria, drove out those of the Persians who were in it. 15Then proceeding to the Holy City, he delivered Hyrcanus from the war which the Jews were waging against him, reconciling the parties. 16Afterwards, passing the Euphrates, he fought with the Persians, and brought them back to their subjection to the Romans: 17He also reduced to submission the two and twenty kingswhom Pompey had subdued; and reduced under obedience to the Romans everything in the countries of the east.

**Chapter XLII**

*The history of Caesar, king of the Romans.*

1It is reported that there was at Rome a certain woman who was pregnant, who, being near to her delivery, and racked with most violent pains of childbirth, died*.* 2But as the child was in motion, the belly of the mother was opened, and it was brought forth thence and lived, and grew, and was named Julius, because he was born in the fifth month; 3And was called Caesar, because the belly of his mother, from whence he was extracted, was ripped open. (Lat. *cæsa*.) 4But when the elder *of Rome* sent Pompey into the east, he likewise sent Caesar into the west, to subdue certain nations which had revolted from the Romans. 5And Caesar went, and conquered them, and reduced them to obedience to the Romans, and returned to Rome with great glory: 6And his fame increased, and his affairs became much renowned, and excessive pride took hold on him; wherefore he requested the Romans to name him king. 7But the elder and governors answered him, “Truly our fathers took an oath in the days of Tarquin the king, – who had taken by force another man's wife, who laid hands on herself that he might not enjoy her, – 8That they would not give the title of king to any of those who should be placed at the head of their affairs; on account of which oath (*said they)* we are not able to gratify you in this particular.” 9Wherefore he stirred up seditions, and waged furious battles at Rome, slaying many people, until he seized on the throne of the Romans, and entitled himself king, putting a diadem on his head. 10From thenceforth they were called kings of the Romans, from their kingdom: they were also called Caesars. 11When therefore Pompey heard this news of Caesar, and that he had slain the three hundred and twentygovernors, he collected his armies and marched into Cappadocia: 12And Caesar going to meet him engaged him, conqueredand slew him, and gained possession of the whole territory of the Romans. 13After this, Caesar went into the province of Syria; whom Mithridatesthe Armenian met with his army, assuring him that he was come with peaceful designs, and was ready to attack whatsoever enemies he should command. 14Caesar ordered him to depart into Egypt; and Mithridates marched till he came to Ascalon. 15Now Hyrcanus feared Caesar very much, because his submission to Pompey, whom Caesar had slain, was known. 16Wherefore he despatched hastily Antipater with a brave army to assist Mithridates: and Antipater marched to him, and aided him against a certain one of the cities of Egypt, and they took it. 17But as they departed thence, they found an army of the Jews who dwelled in Egypt, making a stand at the entrance, to prevent Mithridates from entering Egypt. 18And Antipater produced to them a letter from Hyrcanus, commanding them to desist, and not oppose Mithridates, the friend of Caesar. And they forbore. 19But the *others* marched till they came to the city of the then reigning king; who came out to them with all the armies of the Egyptians, and when they engaged with him, he conquered and routed them; 20And Mithridates turned his back and fled; whom, when he was surrounded by the Egyptian troops, Antipater saved from death: 21And Antipater and his men ceased not to resist the Egyptians in battle, whom he routed and conquered, and won the whole country of Egypt. 22And Mithridates wrote to Caesar, shewing him what Antipater had done, and what battles he had endured, and what wounds he had received; 23And that the winning of *the* country was to be ascribed not to him but to Antipater, and that he had reduced the Egyptians to obedience unto Caesar. 24And when Caesar had read the letter of Mithridates, he commended Antipater for his exploits, and resolved to advance and exalt him. 25After these acts, Mithridates and Antipater went to Caesar, who then was at Damascus; and he obtained from Caesar whatsoever he liked, and he promised him whatever he wished for.

**Chapter XLIII**

*The account of the coming of Antigonus the son of Aristobulus unto Caesar, complaining of Antipater who had caused his father's death.*

1But Antigonus the son of Aristobulus came to Caesar, and related to him the expedition of Aristobulus his father to attack Pompey, and how obedient and obsequious he was to him*.* 2Then he told him that Hyrcanus and Antipater had secretly sent a man to his father to destroy him by poison, intending *(said he)* to assist Pompey against your friends. 3Caesar therefore sent to Antipater, and questioned him on this matter; to whom Antipater replied; 4”Certainly I did obey Pompey, because then he was the ruling person, and conferred benefits on me; but I did not now fight with the Egyptians for the sake of Pompey, who is already dead; 5Nor did I go through difficulties in defeating them and reducing them to obedience to Pompey; but I did this out of duty to Caesar, and that I might reduce them to obedience to him.” 6Then Antipater uncovered his head and his hands, and said; “These wounds, which are on my head and body, testify that my affection and obedience to Caesar are greater than my affection and obedience to Pompey; 7For I did not expose myself in the days of Pompey, to the things to which I have exposed myself in the days of king Caesar.” 8And Caesar said to him, “Peace be to you, and to all your friends, O bravest of the Jews; for, you have truly shown this fortitude, magnanimity, obedience, and affection towards us.” 9And from that time Caesar increased in affection towards Antipater, and advanced him above all his friends, and promoted him to be general of his armies, and took him with him into the country of the Persians: 10And he saw from his bravery and his successful exploits, that he more *and more* excited in him a longing and affection for him: 11At length he brought him back into the land of Judah, covered with honours and crowned with a post of authority. 12And Caesar marched to Rome, having settled the affairs of Hyrcanus; who built the walls of the Holy City, and conducted himself towards the people in a most excellent manner: 13For, he was a good man, endued with virtues, of irreproachable life, but his inability in wars was notorious to all men.

**Chapter XLIV**

*The account of the embassy of Hyrcanus to Caesar, asking for a renewal of the treaty between them; and of the copy of the treaty which Hyrcanus sent to him.*

1Therefore Hyrcanus sent ambassadors to Caesar, with a letter concerning a renewal of the treaty which was between him and the Romans. 2And when Hyrcanus’ ambassadors came to Caesar, he ordered them to be seated in his presence; an *honour* which he had not conferred on any one of the ambassadors of the kings who used to come to him. 3Moreover he acted kindly to them, by expediting their business, and ordered an answer to be given to Hyrcanus’ letter; to whom also he wrote the treaty, of which the following is a copy. 4“From Caesar, king of kings, to the princes of the Romans who are at Tyre and Sidon, peace be with you. 5I give you to know, that a letter of Hyrcanus the son of Alexander, both kings of the Jews, has been brought to me; 6At the arrival of which I rejoiced, by reason of the continued good-will which both he and his people declare that they have towards me and the Roman nation. 7And verily the truth of his words I have proved by this; that he formerly sentAntipater a captain of the Jews, and their cavalry, with Mithridates my friend, whom the troops of Egypt attacked; 8And he saved Mithridates from death, having won for us the country of Egypt, and reduced the Egyptians to obedience to the Romans: he also marched with me into the country of the Persians, serving as a volunteer. 9And therefore I order that all the inhabitants of the sea-coast, from Gaza as far as Sidon, shall pay all the tributes which they owe us, every year, to the house of the great God which is in Jerusalem; 10Except the citizens of Sidon; and let these pay to it, according to the appointment of their tribute, twenty thousand five hundred and fifty vibaeof wheat everyyear. 11I also order, that Laodicea and its possessions, and all things which were in the hand of the kings of Judah, even to the bank of the Euphrates; 12With all those places which the Asmonaeanswon from the passing over Jordan, – be restored to Hyrcanus the son of Alexander king of Judah. 13For all these things his fathers had won by their sword, but Pompey had unjustly taken them awayin the time of Aristobulus: 14And from this time and for the future let them belong to Hyrcanus, and to the succeeding kings of Judah. 15And this treaty is for me, and for every one of the kings of Rome my successors: whoever therefore shall break it or any part of it, may God destroy him by the sword, and may his house and his government be made desolate and be cut down! 16And when you shall read this my epistle, write it in lettersengraved on tables of brass, in the language of the Romans and in their characters, and in the language of the Greeks and in their characters: 17And place the tables in conspicuous parts of the temples which are at Tyre and Sidon; that every person may be able to see them, and may understand what I have appointed for Hyrcanus and the Jews.”

**Chapter XLV**

*The history of Caesar’s death.*

1There were with Caesar two of Pompey’s friends; of whom the one was called Cassius, and the other Brutus; who laid a plot to kill Caesar. 2For which purpose they concealed themselves in the templeat Rome which he had set apart for himself to pray in. 3To which therefore when he came, careless, safe, and taking no sort of heed to himself, they rushed upon him, and killed him. 4And Cassius got possession of the throne, and gathered a large army, and transported it beyond the sea; fearing Caesar’s party if he should continue to reside at Rome. 5And he marched into the land of Asia, and wasted it: from thence he went into the country of Judah: 6And Antipater wished to attack him; but seeing that his strength was not equal to the task, he made peace with him. 7And Cassius laid a tribute of seven hundred talents of gold on the land of Judah; and Antipater bound himself as surety for the money; 8And charged his son Herod to raise it on the country of Judah, and to carry it to Cassius: who receiving it marched into the country of Macedonia, and there remained through fear of the Romans.

**Chapter XLVI**

*The history of the death of Antipater.*

1Now the princes of Judah had taken counsel to slay Antipater; and for that purpose had secretly set upon him a man who was called Malchiah. 2And Malchiah made the attempt, but it’s execution was delayed for a long time. 3And the report of it reached Antipater, who sought out Malchiah to kill him: 4But Malchiah cleared himself in the sight of Antipater of the things whereof he had been accused to him; and swore to him that the report was groundless: and Antipater believed him, putting aside all suspicion from him, 5But Malchiah, having given a large sum of money to Hyrcanus’ cup-bearer, agreed with him to give Antipater poison, while he was on the banqueting couch in the king’s presence. 6And the cup-bearer did this, and king Antipater died on that same day: and the thing was not by the design, nor with the knowledge, of the king. 7And when Antipater was dead, Hyrcanus substituted Malchiah in his place.

**Chapter XLVII**

*The history of the death of Malchiah.*

1Now when Herod the son of Antipater was informed that Malchiah had caused his father’s death, he thought to rush openly upon Malchiah; but his brother prevented him from doing this, advising that he should be taken off by stratagem. 2And Herod went to Cassius, and told him what Malchiah had done: to whom *the other* replied, when I am gone to Tyre, and Hyrcanus is with me, and with him Malchiah, *then* rush on him and kill him. 3When therefore Cassius had gone to Tyre, and Hyrcanus had gone to join him, taking Malchiah with him; and they were standing together in Cassius’ presence, at a certain feast to which Cassius had invited them with all his friends. 4(Now Cassius had given orders to his servants to do whatever Herod should order them.) 5Herod also was standing with his brother amongst the companions of Hyrcanus, and Herod agreed with some of the servants to kill Malchiah, when a signal should be given by a wink of the eye. 6When therefore Hyrcanus had eaten and drunken with his friends, they went to sleep in the afternoon: 7And when they had awaked from sleep, Hyrcanus ordered one to prepare a couch for him in the open air, before the entrance of the banqueting room in which they had slept: 8And he himself sat down, and commanded Malchiah to sit with him: he also ordered Herod and his brother to be seated: 9And Cassius’ servants stood near Hyrcanus; to whom Herod winked against Malchiah, and they immediately rushed on him and slew him. 10And Hyrcanus was greatly frightened, and fell into a fit of fainting. 11But when Cassius’ attendants had retired, and the slain Malchiah was carried out, Hyrcanus came to himself again, and asked of Herod the cause of Malchiah’s death. 12And Herod answered, “I am wholly ignorant, nor do I know the cause of the thing.” And Hyrcanus held his peace, and never again asked more of the matter. 13And Cassius marched into Macedonia, to meet Octavian the son of Caesar’s brother, and Antony the general of his army: for they had set out from Rome with a great army in search of Cassius.

**Chapter XLVIII**

*The history of Octavian, (the same is Augustus the son of Caesar’s brother,) and of Antony, general of his army, and of Cassius’ death.*

1When Octavian had marched into Macedonia, I Cassius went out to meet him, and engaged with him; and Cassius was put to flight; 2Whom Octavian pursuing, entirely defeated and killed: and Octavian won the kingdom in place of his uncle Caesar; and he also was surnamed, Caesar, after the name of his uncle. 3Now when the death of Cassius became known to Hyrcanus, he sent ambassadors with presents, money, and jewels, to Augustus and Antony: 4And he wrote to him, asking for a renewal of the treaty which had been *entered into* with Caesar; and that he would order all the captives of Judah who were in his kingdom,and those who had been made captives in the days of Cassius, to be set free; 6And that he would permit all the Jews who were in the country of the Greeks, and in the land of Asia, to return into the country of Judah, 7Without requiring any ransom, or redemption, or any obstacle being thrown in the way by any one. 8So when the ambassadors of Hyrcanus came to Augustus, with their letter and presents, he honoured the ambassadors, 9And accepted the presents, and acceded to all things which Hyrcanus had asked; writing to him a letter, of which this is the copy. 10“From Augustus, king of kings, and Antony his colleague, to Hyrcanus king of Judah; 11Health be to you. Your letter has even now reached us, at which we rejoiced; and we have sent that which you wished, respecting the renewal of the treaty, and the writing, to all our provinces, which extend from the country of the Indias even to the western ocean. 12But that which delayed us from sooner writing to you concerning the renewal of the treaty was, our occupation in subduing Cassius, that filthytyrant; 13Who, acting wickedly towards Caesar, that luminary of the world, slew him. 14Wherefore we have contended with him with our whole strength, until the great and good God rendered us victorious, and caused him to fall into our hands; 15Whom we have put to death. We have also slain Brutus his colleague; and we have delivered the country of Asia out of his hand, after he had laid it waste, and had exterminated its inhabitants. 16Nor did he adhere to any engagement; nor honour any temple; nor do justice to the oppressed; nor pity a Jew, or any *other of* our subjects: 17But with his followers he wickedly did many evils to all men through oppression and tyranny. 18Wherefore God hath turned their malice *back* on their own heads, delivering them up, with those *who* were confederate with them. 19Rejoice now therefore, O king Hyrcanus, and other Jews, and inhabitants of the Holy Region, and priests who are in the temple of Jerusalem: 20And let them accept the present which we have sent to the most glorious temple, and pray for Augustus ever. 21We have written also to all our provinces, that there remain in none of them any one of the Jews, be it servant or maid, but that all should be let go, without price and without ransom: 22And that they should be hindered by no person from returning into the land of Judah; and this by command of Augustus, and likewise of Antony his colleague.” 23Moreover, he wroteto his friends, who are at Tyre and Sidon, and in other places, to restore whatever they had taken out of the land of Judah in the days of that filthy Cassius: 24And to treat the Jews peaceably, and not to oppose them in anything, and to do for them whatever Caesar had decreed in his treaty with them. 25Now Antony remained in the country of Syria; and Cleopatraqueen of Egypt came to him, whom he took for his wife. 26She was a wise woman, skilled in magical arts and properties *of things:* sothat she enticed him, and got possession of his heart to that degree that he could deny her nothing. 27At this same time, a hundred men of the chief of the Jews went to Antony, and complained of Herod and his brother Phaselus the sons of Antipater, saying; 28They have now gotten every thing belonging to Hyrcanus, and there remains to him nothing of the kingdom except the name; and the concealment of this matter is a proof of the captivity of their lord. 29But when Antony had inquired of Hyrcanus the truth of the things which they had mentioned to him, Hyrcanus declared that they spoke falsely; clearing Herod and his brother from that which they had laid to their charge. 30And Antony rejoiced at this; for he was greatly inclined towards them, and loved them. 31Moreover, other persons at another time complained to him of Herod and his brother, when he was at Tyre: 32But he not only refused to entertain their words, but put to death some of them, and cast the rest into prison; 33And he advanced the dignity of Herod and his brother, doing them services, and sent them back to Jerusalem, with great honour. 34But Antony *himself,* going into the country of the Persians, defeated them, and subdued them, and returned to Rome.

**Chapter XLIX**

*The history of Antigonus the son of Aristobulus, and of his expedition against his uncle Hyrcanus:   
and of the succour which was obtained from the king, of the Persians.*

1When, Augustus and Antony had arrived at Rome, Antigonus went to the king of the Persians, and promised him a thousand talents of coined gold, and eight hundredvirgins of the daughters of Judah and of its princes, beautiful and wise; 2If he would send with him a general leading a great army against Jerusalem, and would order him to make him king over Judah, and would take prisoner his uncle Hyrcanus, and kill Herod and his brother. 3To whom *the king* assenting, sent with him a general with a great army: 4And they marched until they came into the land of Syria; and they slew a friend of Antony and certain Romans who were dwelling there. 5From thence they marched against the Holy City; professing security and peace, and that Antigonus had only come to pray in the sanctuary, and *then would* return to his own friends. 6And they entered the city; into which when they had gotten, they played foul, and began to kill men, and to plunder the city, according to the orders of the king of Persia to them. 7And Herod and his men ran forward to defend the palace of Hyrcanus: but he sent his brother, and commanded him to guard the way which leads from the walls to the palace. 8And when he had possessed himself of each position, he chose out some of his men, and marched against the Persians who were in the city; 9And his brother followed with a certain number of his men; and they slew the greater part of the Persians who were in the city, but the rest fled out of the city. 10And when the general of the Persians saw that things had not gone to his mind, he despatched messengers to Herod and his brother, to treat for peace; 11Informing them, that now he was satisfied of their valour and bravery, that they ought to be preferred to Antigonus; and that for that reason he would persuade his troops to aid Hyrcanus and them rather than Antigonus: 12And this his wish he confirmed by the most solemn oaths, so that Hyrcanus and Phaselus believed him, but not Herod. 13So Hyrcanus and Phaselus, going out to the general of the Persians, signified to him their reliance on him; and he advised them to go to his colleague who was at Damascus; and they went. 14And when they were come to him, he received them honourably, and made a display of holding them in high esteem, and treated them courteously; although he had secretly given orders that they should be made prisoners. 15And some of the principal men of the land coming to them, told them of this very design ; advised them to flee, with a promise of aiding their escape. 16But they did not trust these men, fearing lest it were some plot against them; wherefore they stayed. 17And when night came on, they were seized: Phaselus indeed laid hands on himself; but Hyrcanus was bound in chains, and by order of the general of the Persians his ear was cut off, that he might never be high priest again; 18And he sent him to Herak, to the king of the Persians; to whom when he came, *the king* ordered his chains to be struck off, and shewed him kindness; 19And he remained in Herak loaded with honours, until Herod demanded him from the king of the Persians: and when he was sent back to Herod, those things befell him which did befall him. 20After this, the general went up with Antigonus into the Holy City: and it was told Herod what had been done to Hyrcanus and Phaselus: 21Wherefore taking his mother Cypris, and his wife Mariamne the daughter of Aristobulus, and her mother Alexandra, he sent them with horses and much baggage to Joseph his brother to mount Sarah: 22But himself with an army of a thousand men marched slowly, and waited for those of the Persians who might attempt to pursue him. 23And the general of the Persians pursued him with his army; whom Herod attacked, and conquered, and put to flight. 24After this, Antigonus’ troops also pursued him, and fought with him. most fiercely: and these he smote, and slew great numbers of them. 25Then he marched to the mountains of Sarah; and found his brother Josephus, whom he ordered to secure the families in a safe place, and to provide all things which were necessary for them: 26And he gave them abundance of money, that if need were, they might buy themselves provisions. 27And having left his men with his brother Josephus, himself with a few companions went into Egypt, that he might take ship and proceed to the country of the Romans. 28Cleopatra entertained him courteously, and requested him to take the command of her armies and the management of all her affairs; to whom he notified that it was quite necessary for him to go to Rome. 29And she gave him money and ships: and he went till he reached Rome, and abode with Antony, and told him what Antigonus had done, and what he had committed against Hyrcanus and his brother, by help of the king of the Persians: 30And Antony rode with him to Augustus and to the senate, and told them the self-same thing.

**Chapter L**

*The history of Herod when the Romans appointed him king over the Jews, and his departure from Rome with an army to fight against the Holy House.*

1Augustus and the senate, informed of what Antigonus had done, with one consent appointed Herod king over the Jews; 2Commanding him to put a golden diadem on his head, and to mount a horse, and that it should be proclaimed by trumpets preceding him, “Herod is king over the Jews and the holy city Jerusalem,” which was done. 3And returning to Augustus, he rode, and Augustus, and Antony; and they went to Antony's house, who had invited the senate and all the citizens of Rome to a banquet which he had prepared. 4And they did eat and drink, and rejoiced over Herod with great joy, making with him a treaty engraved in tables of brass; and it was placed in the temples. 5And they inscribed that day as the first of Herod's reign, and from that time it was taken for an era, by which times are counted. 6After these things, Antony and Herod departed by sea with a great and abundant army: and when they came to Antioch, they divided their forces: 7And Antony took a part, and led it into the country of the Persians which is Herak, and the parts adjacent: and Herod, taking another part, went straight till he came to Ptolemais. 8So Antigonus, hearing that Antony had made an expedition into the country of the Persians, and that Herod had reached Ptolemais, marched out from the Holy House to the mountain Sarah, to take Josephus, Herod's brother, and those who were with him. 9Whom he assaulted, and besieged; and having cut off a canal, intercepted the water which flowed down to them: so that thirst prevailed *among them,* and their affairs were reduced to great straits. 10Wherefore Josephus determined to flee; and the families had deliberated upon surrendering themselves to Antigonus, if Josephus should flee. 11But God sent to them an abundant rain, which filled all their cisterns and vessels: wherefore their hearts were encouraged, and their condition was improved; 12And Josephus continued to repulse Antonyand his men from the strong hold, nor could *the latter* gain any advantage over him. 13But Herod marched straight to the mountain Sarah, to bring back his brother, and the families, and the men who were with him, to Jerusalem. 14And he found Antigonus besieging his brother; upon whom he made a sudden attack; and Josephus and his men carne out to them, and the greater part of Antigonus’ army was destroyed, and he fled into Jerusalem. 15Whom Herod pursued with a great army of Jews, who had come to him from every quarter, when they found that he had returned; and he was well supplied with assistance, so that he stood in less need of the army of the Romans. 16When therefore Herod had reached the Holy City, Antigonus shut the gates in his face; and fought against him; and sent much money to the chiefs of the army of the Romans, requesting them to assist Herod: which they did *for him*.17Wherefore the war lasted a long time between Antigonus and Herod, neither of them prevailing over his fellow [i. e. antagonist].

**Chapter LI**

*The history of the magnanimity of certain of Herod’s men, and of their bravery.*

1Now thieves, and they who were longing for the property of others, had multiplied during the time of Antigonus; 2Betaking themselves to some eaves in the mountains, to which there was no approach except for one man *at* a *time,* through certain places fitted for the purpose by them, and known to them alone: 3And even though others should know them, they could not go up to the cave; because that a man was ever ready at the mouth, who, with a very little trouble, could easily repel a person who was climbing up. 4And now some of these men had gotten to themselves in that cave abundance of arms, provisions, and drink, and all those things which they needed; 5Together with all the spoils which they had gained by attacking those whom they met, and that which they had taken by right or wrong. 6When therefore Herod had learnt their proceedings, and found that their matters were likely to cause delay; also that men could not at present mount up to them by ladders, nor in fact climb up in any way; 7He made use of great wooden chests fitted and joined together, and filled them with men, (adding food and water,) bearing very long hooked spears: 8And those chests he ordered to be let down from the summit of the mountains, at the middle of which the eaves were, until they were placed opposite to their mouths: 9And when they were opposite to these, *he desired* that *his men* should attack them in close fight with swords, and from a distance should drag them out with those spears. 10And the chests were made, and filled with men. 11And when some of them were let down, and were opposite to the mouths of those caves, no information having been given to the persons living there; one of the men who were in the chests rushed into the eaves, followed by his companions; 12And they killed the robbers who were in them, together with their followers, and threw them down into the valleys below; all the men whom Herod had sent, emulating these first. 13And in this exploit, their courage, bravery, and boldness was so conspicuous, that the like of it was never seen: and they wholly rooted out the robbers from all those parts.

**Chapter LII**

*An account of Antony’s return from the country of the Persians after killing the king of the Persians, and his meeting with Herod.*

1Then Antony, after leaving Herod, marched from Antioch into the country of the Persians, and fought with the king of the Persians, overcame, slew him, and won his *land;* 2And having reduced the Persians to obedience to the Romans, he turned aside to the Euphrates. 3And when his fame was told to Herod, he set out to congratulate with him on his victory; and to request him to come with him into the Holy Country. 4And he found a very large multitude collected, wishing to approach Antony; to which many bodies of Arabians had opposed themselves, preventing it from coming to Antony's presence. 5And Herod marched against the Arabians, and slew them, opening a passage for all who wished to approach Antony. 6And this was reported to Antony, before that Herod arrived: whereupon he sent him a golden diadem, and a great many horses. 7But when Herod came, Antony received him courteously, praising him for his exploits against the Arabians: and he attached to him Sosius the general of his army, with a large force, ordering him to go with him to the city of the Holy House: 8Giving him also letters to all the country of Syria, which is from Damascus even to the Euphrates, and from the Euphrates to the country of Armenia; saying to them, 9”Augustus, king of kings, and Antony his colleague, and the Roman senate, have now appointed Herod king over the Jews; and they desire you to lead forth all your men of war with Herod to assist him: if therefore you act contrary to this, you must go to war with us.” 10Then Antony marched to the sea-coast, and thence into Egypt: but Herod, and Sosius with his army, commanded the forces of Syria. 11But when Herod drew nigh to Damascus, he found that his brother Josephus had gone out from the Holy House with an army of Romans, to besiege Jericho and to cut down its corn: 12Against whom came forth Pappus the general of Antigonus’ forces, and slew of them thirty thousand, having also slain Josephus Herod's brother: 13And when his head was presented to, Antigonus, Pheroras his brother bought it for five hundred talents, and buried it in the sepulchre of his fathers: 14And *he heard* also that Antigonus and Pappus were advancing against him with a large army. 15 Which Herod having fully ascertained, determined to make an onset on Antigonus, and to crush him unexpectedly: 16And he agreed with Sosius that he should take twelve thousand Romans and twenty thousand Jews, and march against Antigonus, but that the other should slowly follow his footsteps with the remainder of the army. 17And Herod marched with his troops in a body, and met with Antigonus in the mountainous parts of Galilee: and they fought with him from midday even until night. 18Then the army was dispersed; and Herod with some of his men passed the night in a certain house, and the house fell upon them; but they all escapedfrom the ruin with their lives, without a bone of any one of them being broken. 19Shortly afterwards Herod hastened to fight with Antigonus, and there was a very great battle between them, and Antigonus fled into the Holy House; Pappus *meanwhile* resisting bravely, and continuing the fight, for he was high-spirited and very brave. 20And the greater part of Antigonus' army was slain on that day; Pappus also was killed, whose head Pheroras cut off, and they carried it to Herod, who ordered it to be buried. 21When therefore none remained of Antigonus' army, except prisoners or runaways, Herod gave orders to his men to take rest, and to eat and drink. 22But he himself went to a certain bath which was in the next town, and went into the bath unarmed. 23Now there lay hiddenin the bath three strong and brave men, holding in their hands drawn swords: who, when they saw him come into the bath, and unarmed, made all haste to go out one after the other, being afraid of him; and so he escaped. 24After this came Sosius; and they marched together to the city of the Holy House, which they surrounded with a trench; and fierce battles took place between them and Antigonus: 25And great numbers of Sosius' men were slain, Antigonus frequently overcoming them; but he could not put them to flight, by reason of their firmness and endurance in bearing *his assaults.* 26Then Herod prevailed against Antigonus; and Antigonus fled, and entering the city shut the gates against Herod, and Herod besieged him a long time. 27But on a certain night the guards of the gate fell asleep: which some of Herod's men discovering, twenty of them ran, and taking ladders placed them against the wall, and climbing up killed the guards. 28And Herod with his men hastened to the gate of the city which was opposite to them, and burst it in, and entered the city. 29Which the Romans taking, began to slaughter the citizens; at which Herod being troubled said to Sosius, 30“If you shall destroy all my people, over whom will you appoint me king?” and Sosius ordered proclamation to be made that the sword should be stayed; nor was any person slain after the proclamation. 31But Sosius’ captains, eager for prey, ran to plunder the house of God: but Herod standing at the gate, holding a drawn sword in his hand, prevented them; and sent to Sosius to restrain his men, promising them money. 32And Sosius ordered proclamation to be made to his men to abstain from plunder, and they abstained. And they sought Antigonus and found him, and Antigonus was taken prisoner. 33After these things, Sosius betook himself into Egypt to his colleague Antony, carrying with him. Antigonus in chains. 34But Herod sent to Antony a very great and fair present, requesting him to slay Antigonus; and Antony slew him: and this was in the third year of the reign of Herod, which also was the third year of Antigonus.

**Chapter LIII**

*The history of Herod after the death of Antigonus.*

1When Herod was certified of the death of Antigonus, he considered himself secure that no one of the royal Asmonaean family would contend with him: 2Wherefore he employed himself in advancing the dignities, in kindnesses and promotions, of those who were well inclined to him and obeyed his will. 3He also exerted himself in destroying those persons, together with their families, and in plundering their cattle and their goods, who had opposed him, furnishing aid against him. 4And he oppressed persons, taking away their property, and despoiling all those who had shaken off obedience to the Jews; and slew those who resisted him, and plundered their goods. 5Also he made an agreement with all who were obedient to him, that they should pay him money. 6He also stationed guards at the gates of the Holy House, who might search those who went out, and take whatever gold or silver they should find on anyone, and bring it to him. 7He also ordered the coffins of the dead to be searched; and whatever money any person might endeavour to carry out by stratagem, *the same* to be taken. 8And he heaped together so much *money* as none of the kings of the second house had amassed.

**Chapter LIV**

*The history of Hyrcanus the son of Alexander, the uncle of Antigonus, and of his return into Jerusalem at the request of Herod,   
and of the death to which he put him.*

1Hyrcanus, after that the king of the Persians had set him at liberty, remained in Herakin, in a most respectable condition and great honour; 2Wherefore Herod was afraid lest anything might induce the kingof the Persians to appoint him king, and send him into the land of Judah. 3Wherefore wishing to set his mind at rest, he laid plots for this business; and sent to the king of the Persians a very great present, and a letter; 4In which he made mention of Hyrcanus’ deserts and kind deeds towards him; and how he had gone to Rome on account of what Antigonus his brother’s son had done to him; 5And that having now attained the throne, and his affairs being in order, he wished to reward him in a proper manner for the benefits which he had conferred. 6So the king of the Persians sent a messenger to Hyrcanus, saying; “If you wish to return into the land of Judah, return: 7But I warn you to beware of Herod; and I distinctly inform you, that he does not seek for you to do you any good, but his design is to render himself secure, as there is none remaining whom he fears, except you: wherefore take heed of him most diligently, and be not led into a snare.” 8The Jews of Babylon also came to him, and said to him the like words. 9Again they say to him, “You now are an old man, and not fit to discharge the office of high priest, because of the stain which your nephewinflicted on you: 10But Herod is a bad man, and a shedder of blood; and he recalls you only because he fears you; and you do not want for any thing among us, and you are with us in that station in which you ought to be. 11And your family there is in the best condition; wherefore remain with us, and do not aid your enemy against yourself.” 12But Hyrcanus acceded not to their words; nor listened to the advice of one who advised him well. 13And he set out and journeyed till he came into the Holy City, for the very great longing which he had towards the house of God, his family, and his country. 14And when he had come near to the city, Herod met him, shewing such honour and magnificence, that Hyrcanus was deceived, and trusted in him. 15And Herod in the public assembly, and before his own friends, used to call him “Father:” but nevertheless he ceased not to devise plots in his heart, only so that they should not be imputed to him. 16Wherefore Alexandra and Mariamne her daughter go to Hyrcanus, putting him in fear of Herod, and counselling him to take care of himself; 17But neither to them did he attend, although they repeated this to him again and again, advising him to flee to some one of the kings of the Arabians: 18Yet he attended not to all these things, until they drove him to it by repeated warnings and alarmings. 19Then therefore he wrote to that kingof Arabia; and having sent for a certain man, (whose brotherHerod had slain, and had confiscated his goods, and had visited him with many evils,) he told him that he wished to impart to him a certain secret, adjuring him not to tell it to any one, 20And giving him money and the letter to the king of the Arabians, communicated to him what he requested in the letter. 21So the messenger, having received the letter, thought that he should obtain a high post with Herod, and should remove from himself the evil which he was continually fearing at his hands, if he communicated the matter to Herod; 22And that this would be more profitable to him than the keeping of Hyrcanus’ secret: since in the other case he was not safe, and sure that the thing would not be told to Herod at some time or other, and thus would be the cause of his destruction. 23He therefore carried the letter to Herod, and unfolded to him the whole business: who said to him, Carry the letter, as it is, to the king of the Arabians, and bring me back his answer, that I may know it: 24Tell me also the place where the men will be, whom the king of the Arabians will send, that Hyrcanus may go back with them. 25So the messenger went, and carried Hyrcanus’ letter to the king of the Arabians; who rejoiced and sent some of his men; 26Ordering them to go to a certain place near to the Holy City, and there to wait until Hyrcanus should come to them; and then to attend Hyrcanus till they brought him to his presence. 27He wrote likewise to Hyrcanus an answer to his letter, and sent it by the messenger. 28So the men proceeded with the messenger to the appointed place, and there waited: but the messenger carried the letter to Herod, who learned its contents: he told him also the place of the men, to whom Herod sent persons to take them. 29Afterwards, having sent for seventy old men of the elders of the Jews, and having sent also for Hyrcanus; when he came, he said to him, Is there any interchange of letters between you and the king of the Arabians? 30And Hyrcanus said, No. Then he said to him, Did you send that you might flee to him? and he said, No. 31And Herod ordered his messenger to come forward, and the Arabians, and the horses; he also brought out the answer to his letter, and it was read. 32Then he commanded Hyrcanus’ head to be stricken off; and his head was stricken off, and no one dared to utter a word for him. 33Now Hyrcanus had delivered Herod from the death which was justly awarded him in the assembly of judgement, commanding the assembly to be deferred till the morrow, *and* sending away Herod that same night. 34Whence he was destined to become his murderer, regardless of his services to him and to his father. 35Hyrcanus was put to death when he was eighty years old, and he reigned forty years: nor was there any one of the kings of the Asmonaean race of a more praiseworthy conduct, or more honourable way of life.

**Chapter LV**

*The history of Aristobulus the son of Hyrcanus.*

1Aristobulus the son of Hyrcanuswas of such beauty of form, and exquisite figure and understanding, that his equal was not known. 2His sister Mariamne also, the wife of Herod, was like to him in beauty; and Herod was wonderfully attached to her. 3But Herod was averse to appoint Aristobulus high priest in the place of his father; lest the Jews, being attached to him through their affection to his father, should at some future time make him king. 4Wherefore he appointed some one of the number of common priests, who was not of the family of the Asmonaeans, to be high priest. 5At which Alexandra the mother of Aristobulus being vexed, wrote to Cleopatra; requesting to have a letter from Antony to Herod, that he should remove the priest whom he had elevated, and appoint her son Aristobulus high priest in his stead. 6And Cleopatra granted this; and requested Antony to write a letter to Herod on this subject, and to send it by some chief man of his servants. 7So Antony wrote a letter, and sent it by his servant Gellius: and Gellius coming to Herod, delivered to him Antony's letter. 8But Herod forbore to do that which Antony had written to *order,* asserting that it was not the custom among the Jews to depose any priest from his station. 9Now it happened that Gellius saw Aristobulus, and was greatly struck with the beauty of his form and the perfection of his carriage, which he saw. 10Wherefore he painted a picture of his likeness, and sent it to Antony, writing beneath the picture to this effect; that no man had begotten Aristobulus, but that an angel cohabiting with Alexandra, begat him on her. 11Therefore when the picture reached Antony, he was seized with a most vehement desire to see Aristobulus. 12And he wrote a letter to Herod, reminding him how he had appointed him king, and had assisted him against his enemies, recounting his kindnesses towards him: 13Adding a request, that he would send Aristobulus to him; and he threatened him in this business for the wordswhich he had sent back. 14But when Antony’s epistle was brought to Herod, he refused to send Aristobulus, knowing what Antony designed; and on that account he disdained to do it: and he hastily deposedthe high priest whom he had appointed, establishing Aristobulus in his place. 15And *then* he wrote to Antony, informing him that he had already executed that which he had formerly written to him, about the placing Aristobulus in his father’s post, before his last letter arrived: 16Which business he had *at* *that time* delayed, because it was necessary to debate the matter with the priests and Jews, after an interval of some days, as the thing was unusual; but it having passed according to his wish, he had immediately appointed him. 17But now that he was appointed, it was not lawful for him to go out of Jerusalem; as he was not king, but a priest attached to the service of the temple: 18And as often as he wished to compel him to go out, the Jews refused, and would not allow him, even if he should slay the greater part of them. 19Therefore when Herod’s letter reached Antony, he desisted from asking for Aristobulus; and Aristobulus was made high priest. 20Then came on the feast of tabernacles; and men, assembled before the house of God, beheld Aristobulus clothed in the sacerdotal robes standing at the altar, and they heard him blessing them: 21And he pleased men so much, that they exhibited their affection towards him in a very marked manner. 22Which Herod being fully informed of, was much grieved; and feared lest, when Aristobulus' party gained strength, he should demand from him the kingdom, if his life should be prolonged: wherefore he began to plot his death. 23Now it was customary for the kings to go out, after the feast of tabernacles, to some pleasure-residences at Jericho which former kings had made: 24And there are many gardens adjoining each other, in which were wide and deep fish-ponds, to which they had conducted streams of water, and had erected fair buildings in those gardens: they also had built in Jericho fair palaces and handsome edifices. 25Now the author of the bookrelates, that balsam-trees grew abundantly in Jericho; and that they were *found* nowhere else but there; and that many kings had carried them thence into their own country, but none grew, except those which were carried into Egypt; 26And that they did not fail in Jericho until after the destruction of the second House; but then they withered away, and never sprouted forth again. 27So Herod went out to Jericho in quest of pleasure, and Aristobulus followed him. 28And when they came to Jericho, Herod commanded some of his servants to go down into the fish-ponds, and play as was customary: and that if Aristobulus should come down to them, they should play with him for some time, and then drown him. 29But Herod sat in a banqueting-room which he had prepared for himself to sit in: and Herod sent for Aristobulus, and made him sit by his side: also the chief of his attendants and of his friends sat in his presence: 30And he commanded eatables and drink to be brought; and they did eat and drink: and the attendants hastened down to the waters according to custom, and sported. 31And Aristobulus greatly wished to go down with them into the water, the wine now mastering them, and asked leave of Herod to do so: 32Who replied, This neither befits you nor any one like you: and when he was urgent, he admonished him and forbade him: but when Aristobulus repeated his request to him, he said to him, Do as you please. 33And then Herod, rising up went to a certain palace that he might go to sleep there. 34And Aristobulus went down to the waters, and played for a long time with the attendants: who, when they perceived that being now weary and tired out he wished to go up, held him under water, killed him, and carried him out dead. 35And there was a great tumult of the people, and cry, and a lamentation was set up. 36And Herod running up, came out to see what had happened: who, when he saw Aristobulus dead, bewailed him, and wept over him very tenderly with a most vehement flood of tears. 37Then he ordered him to be borne into the Holy City, and accompanied him until he came into the city, and compelled the people to attend his funeral, and there was no point of the very highest honour which he omitted to pay him. 38And he died when a youth of sixteen years of age, and his high-priesthood continued only for a few days. 39On which account enmity grew up between his mother Alexandra and her daughter Mariamne Herod’s wife, and the mother and sister of Herod. 40And the execrations and revilings which Mariamne heaped upon them were known; and although these reached Herod, yet he did not forbid her nor reprove her, through his great affection for her: 41He feared also, lest she should imagine in her mind that he was well inclined towards the others: from hence these doings lasted long between these women. 42And Herod's sister, who was endued with the greatest malice, and consummate artifice, began to plot against Mariamne: 43But Mariamne was religious, upright, modest, and virtuous: but she was a little tinged with haughtiness, pride, and hatred towards her husband.

**Chapter LVI**

*The history of Antony, and of his expedition against Augustus, and of the aid which he asked from Herod.   
And an account of the earthquake which occurred in the land of Judah, and of the battle which took place between them and the Arabians.*

1Cleopatra, the queen of Egypt, was the wife of Antony: and she discovered such methods of adorning and painting herself, by which women are wont to allure men, as no other woman in the world had found out: 2So that, while she was a woman advanced in age, she seemed as a little unmarried girl, and even more delicate and more fair. 3Antony also found in her those methods of beauty, and those means of creating pleasure, which he had never found in the vast number of women whom he had enjoyed. Wherefore she so completely gained possession of Antony’s heart, that no room was left in it for affection to any other person. 4She therefore persuaded him to discomfit certain kings who were subject to the Romans, from her own private considerations; and he obeyed her in this, putting to death certain kings at her instance; and some he left alive by her orders, making them servants and slaves to her. 5And this was told to Augustus; who wrote to him, abominating such conduct, and desiring him not to be guilty of the like again. 6And Antony told Cleopatra what Augustus had written to him; and she advised him to revolt from Augustus, and shewed him that the thing was very easy. 7To whose opinion he assenting, openly played false with Augustus ; and gathered an army and supplies, that he might go by sea to Antioch, and thence might march by land to meet Augustus wheresoever he might chance to find him. 8He sent also for Herod, that he might accompany him. And Herod went to him with a most powerful army and most complete supplies. 9And when he had come to him, Antony said to him; Right reason advises us to make an expedition against the Arabians, and to engage with them: for we are by no means secure that they may not make an incursion upon the Jews and the land of Egypt, so soon as we shall have turned our backs. 10And Antony departed by sea: but Herod made an inroad upon the Arabians: and Cleopatra sent a general named Athenio with a great army, to assist Herod in subduing the Arabians: 11And she commanded him to place Herod and his men in the first rank, and to make agreement with the king of the Arabians, that they together should enclose Herod and cut his men to pieces. 12To this she was led by a desire of obtaining possession of all which Herod was worth: 13Alexandra also some time previously had requested her to induce Antony to put Herod to death; which indeed she had done, but Antony refused to commit this act. 14To this was added the circumstance, that Cleopatra had formerly longed for Herod, and had at some time desired intercourse with him; but he restrained himself, for he was chaste. And these were the causes which had induced her to this line of conduct. 15So Athenio coming to Herod, according to the command of Cleopatra, sent to make agreement with the king of the Arabians, that he might surround him. 16And when Herod and his Arabians met and encountered, Athenio and his men attacked Herod, who was intercepted between the two armies, and the battle grew fierce against him both before and behind. 17But Herod seeing what had happened, collected his men, and fought most vigorously until they were beyond the reach of both armies, after the greatest exertion; and he returned into the Holy House. 18And there happened a great earthquake in the land of Judah, such as had not occurred since the time of king Harbah, in which a great number of men and of animals was destroyed. 19And this alarmed Herod much, and caused him great fear, and broke down his spirit. He therefore took counsel with the elders of Judah about making an agreement with all nations round about them; designing peace, and tranquillity, and the removal of wars and bloodshed. 20He sent also ambassadors on these matters to the *surrounding* nations, all of whom embraced the peace to which he had invited them, except the king of the Arabians; 21Who ordered the ambassadors whom Herod had sent to him to be put to death; for he supposed that Herod had done this because his men had been destroyed in the earthquake, and therefore, being weakened, he had turned himself to making peace. 22Wherefore he resolved to go to war with Herod; and having collected a large and well provided army, he marched against him. 23And this was told to Herod; and he was much vexed, for two reasons: one, on account of the slaughter of his ambassadors, an act which none of the kings had hitherto committed; another, because he had dared to attack him, imagining in his mind his weakness and want of troops. 24But he wished to shew him that the matter was otherwise: that all, to whom he had sent ambassadors, to treat of peace, might know that he had not done this through any fear or weakness, but from a wish of that which was kind and good; that no one might dare make attempts against the Jews, or imagine in his mind that they were weak. 25Besides, he wished to take vengeance on the king of the Arabians for his ambassadors: on these accounts he determined in all haste to march against him. 26Therefore he collected troops from the land of Judah, and said to them: “You are aware of the slaughter of our ambassadors perpetrated by that Arab; an act which no king hitherto has committed: 27For he thinks that we have been weakened and have become powerless; and he has dared to provoke us, and thinks that he shall obtain all his desires over us : nor will he cease from warring on as continually. 28Wherefore you must struggle against difficulties, that you may shew forth your bravery, and may subdue your enemies, and bear off their spoils: 29Although fortune may at one time shew herself favourable, at another time adverse to us, according to the custom and usual vicissitudes of this world. 30In truth, you must immediately undertake an expedition, to take vengeance on those oppressors, and to curb the audacity of all who hold you in little esteem. 31But if you shall say, this earthquake has disheartened us, and has destroyed great numbers of us; you know full well, that it has destroyed none of the fighting men, but certain others. 32Nor ought we to think it at all unreasonable, that it has destroyed the worst among our nation, but has left the best to survive. It is also undoubted, that this has improved your spirits and your inward feelings. 33But the duty of him, whom God has saved from destruction, and has preserved from ruin, requires that he should obey Him, and should do what is good and right. 34And truly no obedience is more honourable or glorious, than to seek redress for the oppressed on the oppressor; and to subdue the enemies of God and his religion and nation, by aiding those who shew obedience and attention to Him. 35Nor is it unknown to you, what befell us lately with those Arabs, when they had surrounded us with Athenio; and how the great and good God helped us against them, and delivered us from them. 36Therefore fear God, following your ancient custom, and the laudable custom of your forefathers; and prepare yourselves against this enemy before he makes ready against you, and be beforehand with him before he anticipates you: and God will supply you with aid and succour against your enemy.” 37So when the men had heard the address of Herod, they replied, that they were ready to undertake the expedition, and would make no delay. 38And he returned thanks to God and to them for it, and ordered many sacrifices to be offered : he also ordered an army to be raised; and a great multitude was gathered from the tribe of Judah and Benjamin. 39And Herod marching against the king of the Arabians, encountered him; and the battle grew fierce between them, five thousand of the Arabians being slain. 40There was again a battle, and four thousand of the Arabians were killed: wherefore the Arabians returned to their camp, and remained there; and Herod could do nothing against them, for the place was fortified; but he remained with his army, besieging them in the same place, and not allowing them to go out. 41And they remained five days in this condition; and a most violent thirst came upon them; they sent therefore ambassadors to Herod with a most valuable present, asking for a truce, and liberty to draw water to drink: but he did not listen to them, but continued in the same furious hostility. 42The Arabians then said therefore, Let us go out against this nation ; for it is better for us to conquer or die, than to perish from thirst. 43And they went out against them; and Herod's party overcame them, and slew nine thousand of them; and Herod with his men pursued the Arabians as they fled, slaying great numbers of them; and he besieged their cities and took them. 44Wherefore they sued for their lives, promising obedience; to which he agreeing, retired from them, and returned into the Holy House. 45Now the Arabians mentioned in this book are the Arabians who dwelled from the country of Sarah as far as to Hegiaz and the adjacent parts; and they were of great renown and large numbers.

**Chapter LVII**

*The history of Antony's battle with Augustus, and of the death of Antony, and of Herod's going to Augustus.*

1When Antony had marched out of Egypt into the country of the Romans, and had encountered Augustus, most severe battles took place between them, in which victory sided with Augustus, and Antony fell in battle; 2And Augustus got possession of his camp and all which was in it. After this done, he proceeded to Rhodes, that taking ship there he might pass into Egypt. 3And tidings were brought to Herod, and he was very much concerned at the death of Antony; and he feared Augustus most exceedingly; and he resolved to go to him, to salute him and congratulate with him. 4Wherefore he sent his mother and sister with his brother, to a strongholdwhich he had in mount Sarah: he sent also his wife Mariamne and her mother Alexandra to Alexandrium, under the care of Josephus a Tyrian; adjuring him to kill his wife and her mother, so soon as his death should be reported to him. 5After this, he went to Augustus with a very valuable present. 6Now Augustus had already determined to put Herod to death; because he had been the friend and supporter of Antony, and because he had formerly deliberatedupon marching with Antony to attack him. 7When therefore Herod's arrival was notified to Augustus, he ordered him into his presence, in his royal habit which he had on; except the diadem, for this he had ordered to be laid aside from his head. 8Who, when he was in his presence, having laid aside his diadem as Augustus had commanded, said: 9“O king, perhaps on account of my love towards Antony you have been thus violently angry with me, that you have put off the diadem from my head; or was it from some other cause? 10Since, if you are wroth with me by reason of my adherence to Antony, truly, I say, I adhered to him because he deserved well of me, and placed upon my head that diadem which you have taken off. 11And indeed he had requested my assistance against you, which I gave him ; even as he also many times gave his assistance to me: 12But it was not my lot to be present at the battle which he fought with you, nor have I drawn my swordagainst you, nor fought; the cause of which was, my being engaged in subduing the Arabians. 13But I never failed supplying him with aid of men and arms and provisions, as his friendship and his good deeds to me required. And in truth I am sorry that I left him; lest men should conceive that I deserted my friend when he was in need of my help. 14Certainly, if I had been with him, I would have helped him with all my might; and would have encouraged him if he had been fearful, and would have strengthened him if he had been weakened, and would have lifted him up if he had fallen, until God should have ruled matters as He pleased. 15And this truly would have been less grievous to me, than that it should be imagined that I had failed a man who had implored my aid, and thus it should come to pass that my friendship should be little esteemed. 16In my opinion indeed he fell through his own bad policy, by yielding to that enchantress Cleopatra; whom I had advised him to slay, and thus to remove her malice from him; but he did not assent. 17But now, if you have removed from my head the diadem, certainly you shall not remove from me my understanding and my courage; and whatever I am, I will be a friend to my friends and an enemy to my enemies.” 18Augustus replied to him, “Antony indeed we have overcome by our troops; but you we will master by alluring you to us; and will take care, by our good offices towards you, that your affection to us shall be doubled, because you are worthy of this. 19And as Antony played false by the advice of Cleopatra, by the same reason he behaved ungratefully towards us; returning for our kindnesses evils, and for our favours rebellion. 20But we are glad of the war which you have waged with the Arabians, who are our enemies: for whoever is your enemy, is ours also; and whoever pays you obedience, pays it to us likewise.” 21Then Augustus ordered the golden diadem to be placed on Herod’s head, and as many provinces to be added to himas he already had. 22And Herod accompanied Augustus into Egypt; and all the things which Antony had destined for Cleopatra were surrendered to him. And Augustus departed to Rome: but Herod returned into the Holy City.

**Chapter LVIII**

*The history of the murder which Herod committed on his wife Mariamne.*

1Now Josephus, the husband of Herod’s sister, had revealed to Mariamne that Herod had ordered him to put her and her mother to death, as soon as he himself should perish in his going up to Augustus. 2And she already had a dislike of Herod, since the time when he killed her father and brother; and to this no little addition of hatred was made, when she was informed of the orders which he had given against her. 3Therefore when Herod arrived out of Egypt, he found her totally overcome by hatred towards him: at which being greatly troubled, he tried to reconcile her to him by all possible methods. 4But his sister came on a certain day, after some quarrels which had taken place between her and Mariamne, and said to him, Certainly Joseph my husband has gone aside with Mariamne. 5But Herod paid no attention to her words, knowing how pure and chaste Mariamne was. 6After this, Herod went to see Mariamne on the night which followed that day, and behaved kindly and affectionately towards her, recounting his love for her, saying much upon this head: 7To whom she said, “Did you ever see a man love another, and order him to be put to death? and is he a hater unless he shews such *proofs?*” 8Then Herod perceived that Josephus had discovered to Mariamne the secret which he had entrusted to him; and *believed* that he would not have done that, unless she had given herself up to him: 9And he believed that which his sister had told him on this subject; and immediately departing from Mariamne, he hated and detested her. 10Which his sister learning, went to the cupbearer, and giving him money, delivered to him some poison, and said; Carry this to the king and say to him, Mariamne the king's wife gave me this poison, and this money, commanding that it might be mixed in the king’s drink. 11This the cupbearer did. And the king seeing the poison, doubted not of the truth of the thing: whereupon he gives orders to behead Josephus his brother-in-law immediately; and also orders Mariamne to be put in chains, until the seventy elders should be present, and should pass a due sentence upon her. 12So Herod’s sister feared, lest what she had done should be discovered, and she herself should perish, if Mariamne were set free: so she said to him, O king, if you put off Mariamne's death till to-morrow, you will not be at all able to effect it: 13For as soon as it shall become known that you wish to kill her, the whole house of her father will come, and all their servants and neighbours, and will interpose; and you will not be able to obtain her death until after great tumults. 14And Herod said, Do as it seems *best* to you. 15And Herod’s sister sent in all haste a man to bring out Mariamne to the place of slaughter, setting upon her her maids, and other women, to insult herand upbraid her with all manner of indecency: 16But she answered nothing to any of them, nor even moved her headin the least: nor was her colour changed by all this treatment, nor did any fear or confusion appear in her, nor was her gait altered; 17But with her wonted manner she proceeded to the place whither she was led to be slain; and bending her knees, she held out her neck voluntarily: 18And departed this life, renowned for religion and chastity, marked by no crime, branded with no guilt; howbeit she was not wholly free from haughtiness, according to the habit of her family. 19And of this not the least cause was the obsequious attention and affection of Herod towards her, by reason of the elegance of her form; from whence she suspected no change in him towards her. 20Now Herod had begotten of her two sons namely, Alexander and Aristobulus; who, when their mother was slain, were living at Rome; for he had sent them thither, to learn the literature and language of the Romans. 21Afterwards, Herod repented that he had killed his wife; and he was affected with grief to that degree on account of her death, that by it he contracted a disease, of which he had nearly died. 22Mariamne being dead, her mother Alexandra laid plans to put Herod to death; which coming to his knowledge, he made away with her.

**Chapter LIX**

*The history of the coming of the two sons of Herod, A1exander and Aristobulus, as soon as they heard that their mother had been put to death by Herod.*

1When news was brought to Alexander and Aristobulus of the murder committed on their mother by Herod, they were overcome by excessive grief; 2And departing from Romethey came into the Holy City, paying no respect to their father Herod as they had formerly been wont to do, through the hatred of him which they felt in their minds on account of their mother's death. 3Now Alexander had married the daughter of king Archelaus: and Aristobulus had married the daughter of Herod's sister. 4Therefore when Herod perceived that they paid him no respect, he saw that he was hated by them, and he avoided them: and this did not escape the observation of the young men, and of his family. 5Now king Herod had married a wife before Mariamne, by name Dosithea, by whom he had a son named Antipater. 6When therefore Herod was assured respecting his two sons, as was observed above, he brought his wife Dosithea to his palace, and attached to himself his son Antipater, committing to him all his business; and he appointed him by will his successor. 7And that Antipater persecuted his brothers Alexander and Aristobulus, designing to procure peace to himself while his father lived, that after his death he might have no rival. 8Wherefore he said to his father, “In truth my brothers are seeking an inheritancebecause of the family of their mother, because it is more noble than the family of my mother; and therefore they have a better right than I have to the fortune of which the king has judged me worthy: 9For this cause they are striving to put you to death, and me also they will slay soon after.” 10And this he frequently repeated to Herod, sending also secretly to him persons to insinuate to him things which might produce in him a greater hatred towards them. 11In the mean time Herod goes to Rome to Augustus, taking with him his son Alexander. And when he had come into Augustus' presence, Herod complained to him of his son, requesting that he would reprove him. 12But Alexander said; “Indeed I do not deny my anguish on account of the murder of my mother without any fault; for even brute beasts themselves shew affection to their mothers much better than men, and love them more: 13But any design of parricide I utterly deny, and I clear myself of it before God: for I am possessed of the same feelings toward my father as toward my mother: 14Nor am I that sort of man as to bring upon me guilt for crime towards my parent, and more especially eternal torments.” 15Alexander then wept with-bitter and most vehement weeping; and Augustus pitied him, and all the chiefs of the Romans, who were standing near, wept also. 16Then Augustus asked Herod to take back his sons into his former kindness and intimacy: and he desired Alexander to kiss his father's feet, who did so. He also ordered Herod to embrace and kiss him, and Herod obeyed him. 17Afterwards Augustus ordered a magnificent present for Herod, and it was carried to him: and after passing some days with him, Herod returned to the Holy House; and calling to him the elders of Judah, he said: 18“Know ye that Antipater is my eldest son and firstborn, but his mother is of an ignoble family: but the mother of Alexander and Aristobulus my sons is of the family of the high priests and kings. 19Moreover, God hath enlarged my kingdom, and hath extended my power; and therefore it seems good to me to appoint these my three sons to equal authority; so that Antipater shall have no command over his brothers, nor shall his brothers have command over him. 20Obey therefore all three, O ye assembly of men, nor interfere in any thing which their minds may be able to agree on; nor propose any thing which may produce misleadings and disagreement among them. 21And do not drink with them, nor talk too much with them. For from thence it will come to pass, that some one of them may unguardedly utter to you the designs which he has against his brother: 22Upon which, that you may conciliate them to you, will follow your agreementwith every one of them, according to what seems good to him; and you will bring them to destruction, and yourselves will be destroyed also. 23It is your parts indeed, my sons, to be obedient to God, and to me; that you may live long, and that your affairs may prosper.” Soon afterwards he embraced and kissed them, and commanded the people to retire. 24But that which Herod did came to no happy result, nor were the hearts of his sons united in agreement. For Antipater wanted every thing to be put into his hands, as his father had formerly appointed: and to his brothers it did not seem at all fair that he should be thought equal to them. 25Now Antipater was endued with perseverance, and all bad and feigned friendship; but not so his two brothers: Antipater therefore set spies on his brothers, who should bring him tidings of them: he also planted others who should carry false reports of them to Pilate. 26But when Antipater was in presence of the king, and heard any one relating such things of his brothers, he repelled the charge from them, declaring that the authors were unworthy of credit, and entreating the king not to believe the reports. 27Which Antipater did, that he might not inspire the king with any doubt or suspicionof himself. 28From hence the king entertained no doubt that he was well-inclined towards his brothers, and wished them no harm. 29Which when Antipater found out, he bent to his purpose Pheroras his uncle, and his aunt, (for these were at enmity with his brothers on their mother's account,) offering Pheroras a most valuable present, requesting him to inform the king that Alexander and Aristobulus had laid a plan murder the king. 30(Now Herod was well inclined towards Pheroras his brother, and attended to whatever he said; inasmuch as he paid every year to him a large sum out of the provinces which he governed on the bank of the Euphrates.) 31And this Pheroras did. Afterwards Antipater went to Herod, and said to him; “O king, in truth my brothers have laid a plot to destroy me. 32Antipater moreover gave money to the king's three eunuchs, that they should say, Alexander has given us money, that he might make a wicked use of us, and that we might slay you: and when we shrank from it, he threatened us with death.” 33And the king was wroth with Alexander, and ordered him to be put in chains: and he seized and put to the torture all the servants of Alexander, till they should confess what they knew about Alexander's plot for murdering him. 34And many of these, though they died under the torture, never told a falsehood respecting Alexander: but some of them, being unable to endure the violence of the torment, devised falsehoods through a desire of liberating themselves; 35Asserting that Alexander and Aristobulus had planned to attack the king, and slay him, and flee to Rome; and having received an army from Augustus, to march against the Holy House, to slay their brother Antipater, and to seize on the throne of Judaea. 36And the king commanded Aristobulus to be seized and put in chains: and he was bound, and was placed with his brother. 37But when news of Alexander was brought to his father-in-law Archelaus, he went to Herod, pretending to be in a great fury against Alexander: 38As if, on hearing a report of the *intended* parricide, he had come on purpose to see whether his daughter, the wife of Alexander, was privy to the business, and had not revealed it to him, that he might put her to death: but that, if she was not privy to any thing of the kind, he might separate her from Alexander, and take her to his own home. 39Now this Archelaus was a prudent, wise, and eloquent man. and when Herod had heard his words, and was satisfied of his prudence and honesty, he wonderfully got possession of his heart; and he trusted himself to him, and relied on him without the slightest hesitation. 40Archelaus therefore, finding Herod's inclination towards him, after a long intimacy, said to him one day when they had retired together; 41”Truly, O king, by reflecting on your affairs I have found, that you being now in advanced age are much in want of repose of mind, and to have solace in your sons; whereas on the contrary you have derived from them grief and anxiety. 42Moreover I have thought respecting these your two sons, and I do not find that you have been deficient in deserving well of them; for you have promoted them, and made them kings, and have left undone nothing, which might drive them wickedly to *contrive* your death, nor have they any cause for *entering on* this business. 43But perhaps this has come from *some* malicious person, who is desiring evil against you and them, or who through envy or enmity has induced you to abhor them. 44If therefore he has gained influence over you, who are an old man, endued with knowledge, information, and experience, changing you from paternal mildness to cruelty and fury against your children; 45How much easier could he have wrought on them, who are young, inexperienced, and unguarded, and with no knowledge of men and their guiles, so that he has gained from them that which he wished in this matter. 46Consider therefore your affairs, O king; and do not give ear to the words of informers, nor do any thing hastily against your children; and enquire who that is who has been contriving evil against you and them.” 47And the king replied to him; “Indeed the thing is as you have mentioned: I wish that I knew who has induced them to do this.” Archelaus answered, “This is your brother Pheroras.” The king replied, “It may be so.” 48After this, the king became greatly changed in his behaviour towards Pheroras: which Pheroras perceiving, was afraid of him; and coming to Archelaus, said to him; 49”I perceive how that the king is changed towards me; wherefore I intreat you to reconcile his mind to me, removing the feelings which he cherishes in his heart against me.” 50To whom Archelaus replied; “I will do it indeed, if you will promise to disclose to the king the truth concerning the plots which you have laid against Alexander and Aristobulus.” And to this he assented. 51And after a few days, Archelaus said to the king; “O king, truly a man's relatives are to him as his own limbs: and as it is good for a man, if any one of his limbs becomes affected by some disease which befalls it, to restore it by medicines, even although it may cause him pain; 52And it is not good to cut it off, lest the pain should be increased, the body be weakened, and the limbs should fail; and thus from the loss of that limb, he should feel the want of many conveniences: 53But let him endure the pains of the medical treatment, that the limb may become better, and may be healed, and his body may return to its former perfectness and strength. 54So is it meet for a man, so often as any one of his relatives is altered towards him, from any abominable cause whatsoever, to reconcile him to himself; 55Alluring him to civility and friendship, admitting his excuses, and dismissing the charges against him: and that he do not put him hastily to death, nor remove him too long away from his presence. 56For the relatives of a man are his supporters and assistants, and in them consists his honour and glory; and through them he obtains that which otherwise he would not be able to obtain. 57Pheroras truly is the king's brother, and the son of his father and of his mother: and he confesses his fault, entreating the king to spare him, and to dismiss from his *mind* his error.” And the king replied, “This I will do.” 58And he ordered Pheroras to come before him; who, when he was in the presence, said to him; “I have sinned now in the sight of the great and good God, and to the king, devising mischiefs, and plans which might injure the affairs of the king and his sons, by lying falsehoods. 59But that which induced me to act thus was, that the king took away from me a certain woman, my concubine, and separated her and me.” 60The king said to Archelaus, “I have now pardoned Pheroras, as you requested me: for I find that you have cured the disease which was in our affairs by your soothing methods, even as an ingenious physician heals the corruptions of a sick body. 61Wherefore I entreat you to pardon Alexander, reconciling your daughter to her husband; for I regard her as my daughter, since I know that she is more prudent than he, and that she turns him aside from many things by her prudence and her exhortations. 62Wherefore I pray you not to separate them and destroy him: for he agrees with her, and obtains many advantages from her guidance.” 63But Archelaus answered, “My daughter is the king's handmaid: but him my soul hath lately detested, by reason of his evil design. Let the king therefore permit me to separate him from my daughter, whom the king may unite to whomsoever of his servants he pleases.” 64To whom the king replied; “Do not go beyond my request; and let your daughter remain with him, and do not contradict me.” And Archelaus said; “Surely I will do it; and will not contradict the king in any thing which he shall enjoin me.” 65Soon afterwards, Herod orders Alexander and Aristobulus to be loosed from their chains, and to come before him: who, when they were in his presence, prostrated themselves before him., confessing their faults, excusing themselves, and begging for pardon and forgiveness. 66And he commanded them to stand up, and causing them to come near him, he kissed them, and ordered them to depart to their own homes, and to return the next day. And they came to eating and drinking with him, and lie reinstated them in a place of greater honour. 67And to Archelaus he gave seventy talents and a golden couch, enjoining likewise all the chief men of his friends to offer valuable presents to Archelaus: and they did so. 68This being accomplished, Archelaus departed from the city of the Holy House to his own country; whom Herod accompanied, and at length, having taken leave of him, returned to the Holy House. 69Nevertheless, Antipater did not leave off his plots against his brothers, that he might make them odious. 70Now it happened that a certain mancame to Herod, having some valuable and handsome articles, with which kings are usually won; 71These he presented to the king, who, taking them from him, repaid him for them; and the man obtained a very high place in his affections, and having been taken into his retinue, enjoyed his confidence: this man was named Eurycles. 72When therefore Antipater perceived that this man had wholly engrossed his father's favour, he offered him money, requesting that he would dextrously insinuate to Herod, and maintain that his two sons Alexander and Aristobulus were planning to murder him; which the man promised him to do. 73He soon afterwards went to Alexander, and became intimate and familiar with him to that degree, that he was known to be in his friendship, and it was made known to the king that he was intimate with him. 74After this, he went aside with the king, and said to him; “Certainly you have this right over me, O king, that nothing ought to prevent me from giving you good advice: and in truth I have a matter which the king ought to know, and which I ought to unfold to you.” 75The king said to him, “What have you?” The man answered him, “I heard Alexander saying, “Truly God hath deferred vengeance on my father for the death of my mother, of my grandfather, and of my relatives, without any crime, that it may take place by my hand: and I hope that I shall take vengeance for them upon him.” 76And now he has agreed with some chiefs to attack you, and he wished to implicate me in the plans which he had formed : but I held it to be a crime, on account of the king's acts of kindness towards me, and his liberality. 77But my intention is to admonish him well, and to report this to him, for he has *both* eyes and understanding.” 78And when the king had heard these words, he by no means set them at nought, but speedily began to make enquiry as to their truth: 79But he found out nothing on which he could rely, except a letter forged in the name of Alexander and Aristobulus to the governor of a certain town. 80And there was in the letter, “We wish to kill our father, and to flee to you; wherefore prepare us a place wherein we may remain until the people assemble round us, and our affairs are settled.” 81And this indeed was confirmed to the king, and appeared probable: wherefore he seized the governor of that city and put him to the torture, that he might confess what was inserted into that letter. 82Which this man denied, clearing himself from the charge: nor was any thing proved against them in this matter, or in any thing else which the informer had charged upon them. 83But *Herod* ordered them to be seized and bound with chains and fetters. Then he went to Tyre, and from Tyre to Caesarea, carrying them with him in chains. 84And all the captains and all the soldiers pitied them: but no one interceded for them with the king, lest he should admit that to be true of himself which the informer had asserted. 85Now there was in the army a certain old warriorwho had a son in the service of Alexander. When therefore the old man saw the wretched condition of Herod's two sons, he pitied their change of fortune marvellously, and cried out with as loud a voice as he was able, “Pity is gone; goodness and piety have vanished away; truth is removed out of the world.” 86Then he said to the king, “O you merciless to your children, enemy of your friends, and friend to your enemies, receiving the words of informers and of persons who wish no good to you!” 87And the enemies of Alexander and Aristobulus ran up to him, and reproved him, and said to the king; “O king, it is not love towards you and towards your sons which has induced this man to speak thus; 88But he has wished to babble out the hatred which he bare in his heart towards you, and to speak ill of your counsel and administration, as *being* a faithful adviser. 89And indeed some observers have informed us of him, that he had already covenanted with the king's barber, to slay him with the razor while he was shaving him.” 90And the king ordered the old man, and his son, and the barber, to be seized; and the old man and the barber to be scourged with rods till they should confess. And they were beaten with rods most cruelly, and were subjected to various kinds of tortures; but they confessed nothing of those things which they had not done. 91When therefore the son of the old man saw the sad condition of his father, and the state to which he had come, he pitied him, and thought that he would be liberated, if he himself should confess that which was laid to his father, after receiving from the king a promise for his life. 92Wherefore he said to the king; “O king, give me security for my father and myself, that I may tell you that which you are seeking.” And the king said, “You may have this.” 93To whom he said; “Alexander had already agreed with my father that he should kill you: but my father agreed with the barber as has been told you.”94Then the king commanded that old man and his son to be slain, and the barber. He likewise ordered both his sons Alexander and Aristobulus to be taken to Sebaste, and there to be slain and fixed on a gibbet: and they were taken, killed, and fixed on a gibbet. 95Now Alexander left two sons who survived him, namely, Tyrcanes and Alexander, by the daughter of king Archelaus: and Aristobulus left three sons, namely, Aristobulus, Agrippa, and Herod. 96But the history of Herod's son Antipater has already been describedin our former accounts.