

What does 1 Maccabees 1 tell us about the persecution of Jews by Antiochus IV Epiphanes?

Circumcision

Circumcision is the act of removing of foreskin that is associated with the Jewish religion. However, 1 Maccabees tells us that the Jewish people of Judea were persecuted for doing this by Antiochus IV.

Gymnasium

A gymnasium was a building that was built for athletic activities. It was first done by the Greeks then the empires that followed. 1 Maccabees tells us that during the rule of Antiochus Jews were told to take part.

Food taboos/divine law

Another attribute of Judaism that was persecuted by the rule of Antiochus IV was the consumption of 'unclean' animals. 1 Maccabees tells us that although they were forced some resisted.

'From them came forth a sinful root, Antiochus Epiphanes, son of King Antiochus,...' 1 Macc. 1:10



The Holy Covenant

As part of the Holy covenant the reading of the holy book was important to the Jews but as this book tells us Antiochus IV ordered the books destruction.

Worship in the Temple

Worshiping in a temple, especially the one in Judea was defiled by the word of Antiochus. In 1 Maccabees it is written that many things changed 'to defile the sanctuary'. 1 Macc. 1:46.

Taking of sacred items

As well as the burning of the Holy texts, Antiochus IV and his men took everything of value from the sacred building. Some of the items taken are listed in 1 Maccabees, including gold and silver.

Bibliography

1 Maccabees 1

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