

Chinese Traditional

厄斯德拉和乃赫米亞

前言

這兩部書原來只是一本書，書中描述了以色列人從巴比倫流亡之後的回國這段時期的歷史。波斯王居魯士佔領了巴比倫，並發佈諭令允許猶太人返回家園，並重建耶路撒冷和聖殿。大司祭厄斯德拉和官員乃赫米亞在這段時期領導國家的改組和重建工作。他們以盟約為基礎開展這些工作，以期望獲得雅威上主新的助佑。

這兩部書可能是於西元前 400 年寫成的。

厄斯德拉

猶太人返回家園

1 1 波斯王居魯士元年，為應驗雅威借耶肋米亞的口所說的話，雅威打動了波斯王居魯士的心，叫他向全國頒發一道諭令：**2** “衆天之神雅威將地上萬國交给了我，要我在猶大的耶路撒冷為他蓋一座殿宇。**3** 凡屬於他的子民者，願他的神與他同在！願他們借著他們天主的助佑，上耶路撒冷去蓋雅威的宮殿，他是以色列的神，住在耶路撒冷的神。**4** 為了給在耶路撒冷的神修建殿宇，居住各地的雅威的所有遺民都要捐助金銀、財物、牲畜和自願的獻儀。”

5 於是，猶大和本雅明的族長、司祭、肋未人以及那些受天主感動的人，起程去修建雅威的殿宇。**6** 左鄰右舍拿出金銀、牲畜和珠寶協助他

English

EZRA AND NEHEMIAH

Introduction

These two books, that originally were only one, tell about the history of the people after their return from the Babylonian captivity. Cyrus, the Persian king, has conquered Babylon and has granted permission to the Jews to return to their land and rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple. The priest Ezra and the governor Nehemiah guide the people during this time of reconstruction and in the reorganization of the country. They did that of course based on the Covenant, pillar of the new protection of Yahweh.

The books were probably written towards the year 400 B.C.

EZRA

The return from the desert

1 1In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, Yahweh willed to fulfill the word he had said through the prophet Jeremiah, so he moved the spirit of Cyrus, king of Persia, to issue the following command and send it out in writing to be read aloud everywhere in his kingdom,**2**“Thus speaks Cyrus, king of Persia: Yahweh, the God of heavens, who has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in the land of Judah. **3**To everyone belonging to his people, may his God be with him! Let them go up to Jerusalem with the help of their God and there build the House of Yahweh, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem. **4**In every place where the rest of the people of Yahweh live, let the people of those places help them for their journey with silver, gold and all kinds of goods and livestock. Let them also give them voluntary offerings for the House of Yahweh which is in Jerusalem.”

5Then they rose up—the heads of the families of Judah and Benjamin, the priests and the Levites, and all those whose spirit God had stirred up—and they decided to go and build the House of Yahweh.

們，此外還有各種自願的獻儀。

7 居魯士王也拿出雅威聖殿內的器具，即先前拿步高從耶路撒冷搶來放在他的神殿內的器具。8 居魯士王命司庫官米特達特點數這些器具後，交給猶大首領舍市巴匝。

9 計有三十隻金杯，一千隻銀盃，二十九把刀子，10 三十隻次等金杯，四百一十隻銀碗，及其他器具一千件。

11 一切金銀用器共計五千四百件。舍市巴匝帶著這些器具，與充軍的人從巴比倫返回耶路撒冷。

乃赫米亞

宣讀法律

8 1 到了七月—當時以色列子民還各在本城裏，所有人都聚集在水門前的廣場上，要求厄斯德拉拿出雅威命以色列遵守的梅瑟律法書來。2 七月一日，厄斯德拉便將律法書拿到會衆前，男女老幼和所有能聽懂的人，3 都聚在水門前的廣場上，從早晨到中午，仔細傾聽厄斯德拉宣讀律法書。

4 厄斯德拉經師站在爲此特別準備的木臺上，他的右邊有瑪提提雅、舍瑪、阿納雅、烏黎雅、希耳克雅和瑪阿色雅，他的左邊有培達雅、米沙耳、瑪耳基雅、哈雄、哈協巴達納、則加黎雅和默叔藍。

5 厄斯德拉在衆目之下翻開書，因他高立於衆人以上，所有的人都站立起來。6 厄斯德拉讚頌了雅威，偉大的天主，大家都舉手回答說：“阿們！阿們！”然後跪下，叩頭欽崇雅威。

7 民衆站起來時，肋未人耶叔亞、巴尼和他們的兄弟向大家講解律法。8 厄斯德拉每讀一段天主的律法書，他們就馬上翻譯並解釋，好讓大家都明白所聽到的。

6And all their neighbors gave them all kinds of help: gold, silver, livestock and precious objects in great quantity, besides every kind of voluntary offering.

7King Cyrus also brought out the vessels of the House of Yahweh which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and placed in the house of his gods. 8Cyrus, the king, gave them into the hands of Mithredath, the treasurer, who counted them and turned them over to Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.

9This is the list: golden cups for the offering, 30; silver cups for offering, 1000; knives, 29; 10other cups of gold, 30; of silver, 410; other vessels, 1000.

11Total number of golden and silver vessels: 5400. All this was brought out by Sheshbazzar when the exiles were allowed to return to Jerusalem from Babylon.

NEHEMIAH

Reading of the Law

8 1In the seventh month, all the people gathered as one man in the square before the Water Gate, and they asked Ezra to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which Yahweh had given to Israel. 2Ezra brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all the children who could understand what was being read. It was the first day of the seventh month. 3Ezra read the book before all of them from early morning until midday in the square facing the Water Gate; and all who heard were attentive to the Book of the Law.

4Ezra, the teacher of the Law, stood on a wooden platform built for that occasion and to his right were Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiyah, Uriah, Hilkiah and Maaseiah; and to his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hasbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam.

5Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was in a higher place; and when he opened it, all the people stood. 6Ezra blessed Yahweh, the great God; and all the people lifted up their hands and answered, “Amen! Amen!” And they bowed their heads to the ground.

7The Levites Joshua, Bani and the rest of their brothers explained the Law to the people who were standing. 8They read from the Book of the Law of God, clarifying and interpreting the meaning, so that everyone

9 厄斯德拉經師對民衆說：

“今天是雅威、你們天主的聖日，你們不該悲傷哭泣。” 因為民衆聽了律法，都哭了。 10 他又說：

“你們去吃豐盛的食物，喝甘甜的酒，並分給那些沒有預備的人。今天是上主的聖日，你們不可憂傷，因為雅威的喜樂就是我們的力量。”

11 肋未人也安慰他們說：

“你們不要再哭了，今天是慶祝的日子，不應悲傷。” 12 衆人明白了他們所說的話，就去喝酒慶賀，並和別人分享食物。

瑪加伯書

前言

《瑪加伯書》記述的事件發生在西元前 200 年。以色列只是隸屬於敘利亞國王的一個小省，亞歷山大大帝的一個繼承人安提約古試圖強迫以色列人接受希臘風俗，讓他們完全放棄天主的法律。一開始，以色列子民只是消極抵抗，後來他們寧可殉道也不違背天主的法律。之後，他們在瑪加伯家族的帶領下，發動了武裝起義。

在這兩部書中，除了表達天主保護他子民的思想之外，還闡明了一個有趣的主題，就是相信永生，只要人忠信於天主，死後就一定可以獲得賞報。

《瑪加伯上》

歷史背景介紹

1 1 事情從馬其頓人、斐理伯的兒子亞歷山大的勝仗開始。他從希臘出征，擊敗波斯和瑪待國王達理阿，取代了他的位置，成為希臘的第一位君主。2 他身經百戰，攻下許多要塞，並處死戰敗國的國王，3 他踏

might understand what they were hearing.

9 Then Ezra, the teacher of the Law, said to the people:

—This day is dedicated to Yahweh, your God, so do not be sad or weep.

He said this because all wept when they heard the reading of the Law. 10 Then he said to them:

—Go and eat rich foods, drink sweet wine and share with him who has nothing prepared. This day is dedicated to the Lord, so do not be sad. The joy of Yahweh is our strength.

11 The Levites also calmed the people down, saying:

—Do not weep. This day is a festival day. Do not be sad.

12 And the people went their way to eat, drink and share, and they had a great feast, because they had understood the words that had been proclaimed to them.

MACCABEES

Introduction

These events happen towards the year 200B.C. The Israelites are a small estate under the kings of Syria, successors of Alexander Magnus' empire. One of them, Antiochus Epiphanes, tries to force the Israelites to accept Greek customs, completely opposed to the prescriptions of the Law. The people of Israel resists passively but, later on, reach martyrdom before disobeying Yahweh. Afterwards the armed rebellion explodes, steered by one family: the Maccabees.

In these books, besides the regular theme of Yahweh's protection for his people, when the people are faithful there is another very interesting theme: faith in eternal life, and the recompense that the just ones will receive after death.

1 MACCABEES

Historical introduction

1 ¹ Everything began with the conquests of Alexander the first, son of Philip, the Macedonian. Setting out from Greece, he killed Darius, king of the Persians and the Medes. Being already King of Greece, he took the

遍大地，搶劫了許多國家。世界寂靜無言，臣服在他的權勢之下，他於是變得心高氣傲，⁴集結了強大的兵力，統治各省和各國，使各國首領向他納稅。⁵後來當他患病而自知將不久于人世時，⁶就召集他的將軍，和自幼就隨從他的貴族，在他死之前，把王國分給他們。⁷亞歷山大生前統治希臘十二年。

⁸他的大將軍們繼承王權，各據一方。⁹亞歷山大辭世不久，大將軍們旋即自立為王。他們的子孫繼之而起，在後來的數年裏，惡事行遍全國。

安提約古迫害以色列人

¹⁰在他們的衆子孫中，有一個不信神的後代，就是安提約古王的兒子安提約古厄丕法乃，他曾被押在羅馬做人質，他於希臘帝國一百三十七年（即西元前 175 年），登基為王。

¹¹那時，以色列人中常出現一些歹徒。他們很快就贏得大眾支援，他們說：“讓我們去和四周的民族定約。因為自從我們與他們絕交以來，我們已吃盡苦頭。”

¹²這項提議很受歡迎，¹³有些人急著去見國王。國王同意他們採用外邦人的習俗。¹⁴他們得到了國王的許可，就在耶路撒冷，按照外邦的建築式樣，建了一座體育場。¹⁵爲了處處模仿外邦人，他們替自己做假的包皮，好掩飾受割禮的痕迹，又拋棄聖約，任意行惡。

安提約古搶劫聖殿

¹⁶安提約古基業已穩，志得意滿，便決心攻佔埃及，統治兩國。¹⁷他率領一支大軍和戰車、大象、馬匹，以及一支艦隊進攻埃及，¹⁸攻打埃及王仆托肋米。仆托肋米戰敗撤軍，死傷無數。

¹⁹勝利者趁機搶劫埃及設防的城市，到處掠奪。

²⁰在希臘帝國一百四十三年（西元前 169 年），安提約古打敗埃及之後回來，又率領一支大軍北上進攻以色列，並向耶路撒冷推進。

²¹他妄自闖入聖所，搬走金祭壇、燈座和附件、²²獻餅的供

throne of Darius. ²After fighting many battles, conquering strongholds and putting to death the kings of those nations, ³he reached the ends of the earth and plundered several nations. And when the world became quiet and subject to his power, he became proud. ⁷Alexander had reigned for twelve years when he died.

⁸His generals assumed power, each one in the region assigned to him. ⁹And immediately after Alexander's death, they made themselves kings and their sons after them, filling the earth with evil for many years.

Persecution of Antiochus Epiphanes

¹⁰From their descendants there came a godless offshoot, Antiochus Epiphanes, son of King Antiochus, who had been held as hostage in Rome. He became king in the one hundred and thirty-seventh year of the Greek era (175 B.C.).

¹¹It was then that some rebels emerged from Israel, who succeeded in winning over many people. They said:

—Let us renew contact with the peoples around us for we have endured many misfortunes since we separated from them!

¹²This proposal was well-received ¹³and some eagerly went to the king. The king authorized them to adopt the customs of the pagan nations. ¹⁴With his permission, they built a gymnasium in Jerusalem in the pagan style. ¹⁵And as they wanted to be like the pagans in everything, they made artificial foreskins for themselves and abandoned the Holy Covenant, sinning as they pleased.

²⁰In the year one hundred and forty-three (169B.C.), when Antiochus returned after defeating Egypt, he passed through Israel and went up to Jerusalem with a strong army.

²¹He arrogantly broke into the sanctuary and removed the golden altar,

桌、獻酒的器皿、聖杯、金香爐、帳幔和冠冕，又搬走所有的裝飾物，和遮蓋聖殿入口的金鑄造物。23 他把金、銀、寶物，和凡是他能找到的被珍藏的財寶，統統據為己有。24 他大肆屠殺，口出狂言，然後帶著所有的戰利品返回他的國家；25 以色列境內一片哀哭聲，26 領袖和長老們傷痛歎息，年輕人灰心喪志，婦女們面容蒼白，27 新郎唱哀歌，年輕的新娘也坐在洞房中飲泣。28 大地為她的居民而悲慟、震撼。雅各伯全族人因而蒙羞。

29 兩年之後，國王派稅吏長到猶太各城去，他則率領大軍攻到耶路撒冷。30 他矇騙人民，假意發表和平的言論，一旦贏得人民的信任，旋即攻打這城，以致命的一擊，殺死無數以色列人。31 他在城裏搶劫燒殺，搗毀王宮和城牆。

32 他俘虜了婦女兒童，又搶走牲畜。33 然後他們重建達味城，築之以高而堅實的城牆，護之以堅固的高塔，使城變為他們的堡壘。34 他們讓惡霸和毫無法紀的人守衛這城，35 還囤積軍械、口糧和他們在城中所搶奪的一切，使堡壘成為陷阱，36 威脅聖殿，成為以色列人常存的惡敵。

41 安提約古向全國發佈一道法令，**42 要帝國境內所有民族放棄他們的原有習俗而融合成一個民族。**

瑪塔提雅的反抗

2 15 這時，國王的代表來強迫猶太人放棄他們的信仰。代表們來到摩丁城組織一個聖會。

16 有許多以色列人前去附和，而瑪塔提雅和他的兒子們則分頭散去。17 國王的代表們會晤瑪塔提雅，對他說：“你是這城裏的首領之一，是位舉足輕重、又有名望的人。而你的子女和親友都跟隨你。18 現在，請你率先遵行國王的命令，就像猶太的居民和留在耶路撒冷的人們一般。你和你的兒子將被封為國王之友，國王一定會送給你們金、銀以及更多的禮物。”

19 但是瑪塔提雅大聲回答說：

the lampstand for the light with all its accessories, ²²the table for the bread of offering, the libation vessels, the cups, the golden censers, the curtains and the crowns, and stripped away all the decorations, the golden moldings that used to cover the Temple entrance. ²³He also took possession of the silver, gold, valuable objects and all the hidden treasures he could find. ²⁴He took everything with him and left for his country, after shedding much blood and making arrogant statements.

²⁹After two years, the king sent to the cities of Judah the chief tax collector and he came to Jerusalem with a strong army. ³⁰He spoke to the people with words of peace in order to deceive them. But when he had gained their confidence, he suddenly fell on the city and dealt it a terrible blow, killing many Israelites. ³¹He plundered the city, burning and destroying the palaces and the surrounding walls.

³²He took women and children captive and seized the livestock. ³³Then they rebuilt the city of David with a high and solid wall protected by strong towers, and this became their fortress. ³⁴There they set evil men and apostates who defended it. ³⁵They stored up weapons and provisions, and everything they looted in the city, posing a constant threat. ³⁶It became an ambush for the sanctuary, a grave and constant threat to Israel.

⁴¹Antiochus issued a decree to his whole kingdom.

Mattathias' rebellion

2 ¹⁵In the meantime, the king's representatives, who were forcing the Jews to give up their religion came to Modein to organize a sacred gathering.

¹⁶While many Israelites went to them, Mattathias and his sons drew apart. ¹⁷The representatives of the king addressed Mattathias, and said to him: —You are one of the leaders of this city, an important and well-known man, and your many children and relatives follow you. ¹⁸Come now and be the first to fulfill the king's order, as the men of Judah have already done, and the survivors in Jerusalem as well. You and your sons will be named Friends of the King and the king will send you gold, silver and many other gifts.

¹⁹But Mattathias answered in a loud voice:

“即使所有的民族都放棄他們祖先的信仰而臣服于安提約古王，²⁰我、我的兒子和我的家人還會繼續忠於我們祖先的盟約。²¹願天主保佑我們，不讓我們摒棄律法和律令。²²我們絕不會服從國王的命令，也不會背棄我們的信仰，偏左或偏右。”

²³他說這話時，有一個猶太人上前，當著每個人的面，在摩丁的祭壇上按照國王的法令獻香。²⁴瑪塔提雅看到這人，胸中燃起怒火，義憤填膺地傾瀉出對這人的怒火來。他撲向這猶太人，在祭壇上割斷了他的喉嚨，²⁵又殺死了那些命人獻祭的國王代表，然後將祭壇折毀。²⁶他的作為顯示出擁護律法的熱忱，正像丕乃哈斯殺死撒路的兒子齊默黎一樣。

²⁷瑪塔提雅在城裏高聲宣告說：

“凡是熱心擁護律法和盟約的人，站出來跟隨我。”

²⁸他和他兒子立時逃到山區，把所有的家產留在城中。

猶大與羅馬人聯合

8 ¹猶大聽到羅馬人的聲名，知道羅馬人很善戰，對並肩作戰的人表示好感，對親近他們的人表示友善，²因之他們勢力漸漸強大。

³猶大聽說了羅馬人的征戰，以及他們征服高盧，迫使高盧向他們納稅的事，還有他們在西班牙所行的一切，使他們得到了那裏的金礦和銀礦。⁴他們運用智慧和毅力，征服了離他們很遠的地方。他也知道他們擊敗那些從地極來攻打他們的國王，使列王受到重創，又使其餘的國王每年向他們進貢。

¹⁷猶大派阿科斯的孫子、若望的兒子歐頗肋摩和厄肋阿匝爾的兒子雅松到羅馬去，與羅馬人訂立友好盟約。¹⁸希臘人一向對待以色列人如奴僕，猶大想借此擺脫希臘人的壓迫。

¹⁹這些使者從猶大出發，經過長途跋涉來到羅馬。他們進入議院，進言說：²⁰“猶大瑪加伯、他的兄弟和以色列人民派遣我們來，想與你們締結和平盟約，使你我成為盟友。”²¹羅馬人同意了他們的請求，²²在銅版上寫下盟約，由使者帶回耶路撒冷，作為和平結盟的紀念。

—Even if all the nations included in the kingdom should abandon the religion of their ancestors and submit to the order of King Antiochus, ²⁰I, my sons and my family will remain faithful to the Covenant of our ancestors. ²¹May God preserve us from abandoning the Law and its precepts. ²²We will not obey the orders of the king nor turn aside from our religion either to the right or to the left.

²⁷Mattathias then began to proclaim loudly in the city:

—Everyone who is zealous for the Law and supports the Covenant, come out and follow me!

²⁸Immediately he and his sons fled to the mountains and left behind all they had in the city.

Judah makes alliance with Rome

8 ¹In the meantime, Judas was informed about the Romans. He was told that the Romans were valiant in war and that they showed goodwill towards all who sided with them; that they offered friendship to all who approached them, ²and were a strong ally in war.

He was told of their wars and of their exploits among the Gauls whom they conquered and forced to pay taxes, ³and of all they had done in Spain to gain possession of the silver and gold mines, ⁴and how they had conquered that land by dint of intelligence and perseverance, despite its great distance from their own land. He also learned how they had defeated the kings who came from the ends of the earth to attack them, how they managed to conquer and crush them. There were others who paid them an annual tax.

¹⁷So Judas sent Eupolemus the son of John, and Jason the son of Eleazar to Rome, entrusting them with the mission to make a covenant of friendship with the Romans. ¹⁸Since the Greeks treated the Israelites as slaves, Judas hoped to liberate them from oppression in this way.

¹⁹The envoys from Judas went to Rome, where they arrived after a long journey. When they entered the Senate they addressed the assembly:

²⁰—Judas Maccabeus, his brothers and the people of Israel have sent us

《瑪加伯下》

迫害猶太人的法規

6 1 過了不久，國王派遣一位年老的雅典人，去強迫猶太人放棄他們祖先的法規，不得再按天主的誠命生活， 2 更強迫他們玷污耶路撒冷的聖殿，把聖殿奉獻給奧林匹亞的則烏斯神。他又以同樣的方式，要他們按照當地居民的要求，把革黎斤山上的殿宇獻給“好客”的則烏斯神。

厄肋阿匝爾殉道

18 厄肋阿匝爾是一位傑出的經師，他年事已高，儀錶高貴。有人強撐開他的嘴，強迫他吃豬肉， 19 但他寧可光榮捨命，也不願忍辱偷生，便自動走上刑台， 20 且勇敢地吐出肉片。凡決意不違律法、以至不惜性命的人都該如此。

21 那些負責這褻瀆祭宴的人把他帶到旁邊，他們早就認識他，所以力勸他假裝吃祭肉，而實際上卻吃自己所準備的合法的肉。 22 這樣，他就可免一死，而且因為他們之間多年的交情，他還可獲得禮遇。

23 然而他作了一個高尚的抉擇，相稱於他的高齡和聲望，相稱于他的白髮，也與他自幼至今的無可指摘的生活方式相稱。他更願爲了尊崇天主所建立的神聖律法而受死。他又說：

24 “如果在我這個年歲還做出欺人之事，讓年輕人以爲年高九十的我也遵從了外邦人的習俗，實在不值得！ 25 如果我貪戀殘生，因而引年輕人走入歧途，我豈不讓自己的年歲蒙羞。 26 即使我現在

to you to conclude a covenant of peace with you and to be numbered among your allies and friends.

²¹The Romans approved this proposal.

2 MACCABEES

Persecutory laws

6 ¹After a while, the king sent an older Athenian to force the Jews to abandon their ancestral laws and no longer live according to the laws of God. ²And to have them also profane the temple in Jerusalem and dedicate it to the *Olympian god*. In the same way, he wanted them to dedicate the temple in Mount Gerizim to the *hospitable god*, according to the wishes of the inhabitants of the place.

Martyrdom of Eleazar

¹⁸Eleazar, one of the prominent teachers of the Law, already old and of noble appearance, was forced to open his mouth to eat the flesh of a pig. ¹⁹But he preferred to die honorably than to live in disgrace, and voluntarily came to the place where they beat him to death. He spit out bravely the piece of meat, ²⁰as should be done by those who do not want to do things prohibited by the Law, even to save their life.

²¹Those in charge of this impious banquet took him aside, since they had known him for a long time, and tried to convince him to pretend to be eating the meat, but in reality, to eat something allowed by the Law and prepared by himself. ²²In this way, he could escape death, and be treated with humanity for the sake of their long-time friendship.

²³But he preferred to make a noble decision worthy of his age, of his noble years, of his shining white hair, and of the irreproachable life he had led from childhood. Above all, showing respect for the holy laws established by God, he answered that he would rather be sent to the place of the dead. And he added:

²⁴—It would be unworthy to pretend at our age, and to lead many young people to suppose that I, at ninety years, have gone over to the pagan customs. ²⁵If I led them astray for the sake of this short life I would

能躲過人的刑罰，但不論是生是死，我仍然逃不過全能者之手。27所以我寧願勇敢受死，無愧於高齡。28我為神聖的律法犧牲，留給年輕人一個高尚的典範。”

說完這話，他走上刑台。

29 那些在他旁邊的人，認為他是胡言亂語，剛才還以溫和的態度對待他，現在則變得冷酷無情。

30 他臨死之前呻吟著說：

“洞悉萬事而神聖的天主，他知道我能逃脫死亡，但為了敬畏他，我的身體承受了這極大的痛苦，但我內心卻喜樂地接受這一切，因為我尊崇他。”

31 他的死，不僅給年輕人，也給全民族留下一個高尚的典範和大德大勇的記錄。

母子八人殉道

7 1 後來又有七個兄弟和他們的母親一同被捕。國王命人鞭打他們，強迫他們吃律法禁止的豬肉。

2 其中一個代表其他人說：

“你想從我們這兒問出什麼？我們已準備好了，寧死也不願違背我們祖先的律法。”

3 國王勃然大怒，下令把平鍋和大汽鍋放在火上，4 等鍋燒得熱紅時，叫人割下這發言人的舌頭、剝去他的頭皮、砍下他的手腳，兄弟和母親都在一旁。

5 當他的肢體被割下後，國王看他還有氣息，就命人把他放在火上活活地炙烤。蒸汽從鍋裏散開時，母親和其餘的兄弟互相激勵要勇敢受死。他們說：

6 “上主天主看到了一切，他必會憐憫我們，正像梅瑟在譴責歌裏所說的：

“上主必會憐憫他的僕人。”

7 第一人這樣死去之後，他們又把第二人送上刑台，將他的頭皮和頭髮一同削去後，問他：

“你想要什麼：吃豬肉呢，還是讓你身體一塊一塊地分解？”

8 他用祖國的語言回答他們：

bring disgrace to my old age. ²⁶Even if I could now be saved from mortals, I cannot—whether living or dead—escape from the hands of the Almighty. ²⁷I prefer to bravely sacrifice my life now, as befits my old age. ²⁸So I shall leave an excellent example to the young, dying voluntarily and valiantly for the sacred and holy laws.

Having said this, he gave himself over to death.

²⁹Those who escorted him considered his words foolishness, so their previous gentleness turned into harshness.

³⁰When he was almost at the point of death, he said groaning:

—The Holy Lord, who sees all, knows that though I could have saved myself from death, I now endure terrible sufferings in my body. But in my soul, I suffer gladly because of the respect I have for him.

³¹In his death, he left a noble example and a memorial of virtue and strength, not only to the young but to the whole nation.

The seven brothers and their mother

7 ¹It happened also that seven brothers were arrested with their mother. The king had them scourged and flogged to force them to eat the flesh of a pig which was prohibited by the Law.

²One of them, speaking in behalf of all, said:

—What do you want to find out from us? We are prepared to die right now rather than break the law of our ancestors.

³The king became furious and ordered that pans and caldrons be heated over a fire. ⁴When these were red-hot, he commanded that the tongue of their spokesman be cut out, his head scalped, and his hands and feet cut off while his brothers and mother looked on.

⁵When he had been thoroughly mutilated, the king ordered that while still breathing, he be brought to the fire and roasted alive. While the smoke from the pan spread widely, the other brothers and their mother encouraged one another to die bravely. And they said:

⁶—The Lord God sees all, and in reality, has compassion on us, as Moses declared in his song, and clearly said:

—The Lord will have pity on his servants.

⁷When the first had left the world in this way, they brought the second for execution. After stripping the skin with the hair from his head, they asked him:

“我決不吃！”

於是他也受了酷刑。

9 他斷氣之前說：

“劊子手，你使我失去現世的生命，但是世界的君王必會高舉我們，使我們這些為他的律法而犧牲的人獲得永生。”

10 事後，他們又處置第三人。他們命他伸出舌頭，他就爽快地伸出，又勇敢地伸出雙手，11 說：

“我從天主那裏得到這些肢體，但現在為了他的律法，我不吝惜它們，期望有一天能從天主那裏再得到。”

12 國王和身邊的侍從看這年輕人無視痛苦，都十分驚訝。

13 這人死後，他們又以同樣的酷刑處置第四人。14 他臨死前大聲呼喊：

“我願死在人手裏，期待天主使我們復活的承諾。而你們無論如何也得不到復活的生命。”

15 他們提第五人受刑。這人注視著國王，16 說：

“你這不免一死的人，現在你對人施以權威，為所欲為。不過不要以為天主已經離棄了我們的民族。17 你等著看吧！看他的大能是如何懲罰你和你的子孫的。”

18 然後，他們又帶了第六人來。這人臨死前說：

“別再自欺了，我們遭到這一切，是因為我們自己的緣故，我們犯罪違背了天主，所以才發生這樣重大的災苦。19 但是不要以為你們違抗天主之後，不會遭到懲罰！”

20 尤其令人仰慕和紀念的，是他們的母親。她在一日之內親眼看到七個兒子身亡，卻能欣然承受，因為她把希望寄託於天主。21 她心中充滿高尚的榮譽感，並以大丈夫的氣概支撐起女性孱弱的心，用祖國的語言，鼓勵他們每個人說：

22 我不知你們是如何在我腹中的：不是我給了你們氣息和生命，也不是我組成你們的身體，23 是世界的創造者形成了人的初始，又賜下萬物的根源。他必會以憐憫之心，償還你們生命和氣息，因為你們現在為了愛他的律法而犧牲生命和氣息。”

24 安提約古覺得她在取笑他，

懷疑她在侮辱他，就趁幼子還活著時，不斷勸誘他，承諾只要他肯放

—Which do you prefer: to eat the flesh of a pig or to be tortured limb by limb?

8He answered them in the language of his ancestors:

—I will not eat.

And so he, too, was tortured.

9At the moment of his last breath, he said:

—Murderer, you now dismiss us from life, but the King of the world will raise us up. He will give us eternal life since we die for his laws.

10After this, they punished the third. He stuck his tongue out when asked to, bravely stretched forth his hands, 11and even had the courage to say:

—I have received these limbs from God, but for love of his laws I now consider them as nothing. For I hope to recover them from God.

12The king and his court were touched by the courage of this young man, so unconcerned about his own sufferings.

13When this one was dead, they subjected the fourth to the same torture.

14At the point of death, he cried out:

—I would rather die at the hands of mortals, and wait for the promises of God who will raise us up; you, however, shall have no part in the resurrection of life.

15They took the fifth at once and tortured him. But with his eyes fixed on the king, 16he said to him:

—Though you are mortal, you have authority over people and are able to do what you will. But do not think that our race has been abandoned by God. 17Wait, and you shall see his great power when he torments you and your descendants.

18After this, they took the sixth who, at the point of death, said:

—Don't be mistaken. We suffer all this because of ourselves for we have sinned against our own God; so these astonishing things have come upon us. 19But do not think that you are going to remain unpunished, after having made war with God.

20More than all of them, their mother ought to be admired and remembered. She saw her seven sons die in a single day. But she endured it even with joy for she had put her hope in the Lord. 21Full of a noble sense of honor, she encouraged each one of them in the language of their ancestors. Her woman's heart was moved by manly courage, so she told them:

22—I wonder how you were born of me; it was not I who gave you breath and life, nor I who ordered the matter of your body. 23The Creator of the world who formed man in the beginning and ordered the unfolding of all creation shall in his mercy, give you back breath and life, since you now despise them for love of his laws.

24Antiochus thought that she was making fun of him and suspected that she had insulted him.

棄他祖先的一切，必使他富裕而快樂，做自己的朋友，得高官厚祿。²⁵但是這少年人毫不理會他，國王就下令把這母親帶進來，讓她勸說自己的孩子，以保全性命。²⁶國王再三勸她，她才同意去勸說她的兒子。²⁷她向國王屈身，用祖國的語言嘲弄這殘忍的暴君，她說：

“孩子，請可憐我。我在腹中懷你九個月，又哺育你三年，我撫養、教育你直到今日。²⁸現在我問你，我的孩子，當你觀看天地及其中萬物時，你該知道是天主從無有中創造了這一切和人類。²⁹不要怕這些劊子手，要對得起你的哥哥們，視死如歸，好在天主顯現仁慈之時，讓你與哥哥們相遇。”

³⁰她說完後，這年輕人便說：

“你們在等什麼？我不會聽從國王的命令！我只遵守梅瑟給我祖先的律法。³¹你設計了這些酷刑迫害希伯來人，你決不能逃脫天主的手。³²我們是因我們的罪而受難。³³我們永生的上主一時向我們發怒而處罰、懲戒我們，但他會和他的僕人重新和好。

³⁴至於你，最無恥、最邪惡的人，不要異想天開，更不要洋洋得意。不要再動手殺害上天的子女，³⁵因為你無法逃脫全能全知天主的審判。³⁶我的哥哥們忍受了暫時的痛苦之後，按照天主的盟約，得到了永生。至於你，將因你的傲慢而得到應得的處罰。

³⁷我要像我的哥哥們一樣，為我祖先的律法而犧牲肉體和性命，呼求天主，早日憐憫我民族，並借著災苦和病疫，迫使你們承認他是唯一的天主。³⁸願全能者向我民族所發的義怒，因著我和我的哥哥們而止息。”

³⁹國王受到他的嘲笑，勃然大怒，施給他的酷刑比對其他人的更殘忍。⁴⁰這少年人全心依靠天主，為正義而身亡。

⁴¹她母親在他之後也犧牲了。

⁴²以上所述足以使人明瞭當時關於吃祭品和因此而引發的酷刑。

As the youngest was still alive, the king tried to win him over not only with his words, but even promised to make him rich and happy, if he would abandon the traditions of his ancestors. He would make him his Friend and appoint him to a high position in the kingdom.²⁵ But as the young man did not pay him any attention, the king ordered the mother to be brought in. He urged her to advise her son in order to save his life.²⁶ After being asked twice by the king, she agreed to persuade her son.²⁷ She bent over him and fooled the cruel tyrant by saying in her ancestral language:

—My son, have pity on me. For nine months I carried you in my womb and suckled you for three years; I raised you up and educated you until this day.²⁸ I ask you now, my son, that when you see the heavens, the earth and all that is in it, you know that God made all this from nothing, and the human race as well.²⁹ Do not fear these executioners, but make yourself worthy of your brothers—accept death that you may again meet your brothers in the time of mercy.

³⁰When she finished speaking, the young man said:

—What are you waiting for? I do not obey the king's order but the precepts of the Law given by Moses to our ancestors.³¹ And you who have devised such tortures against the Hebrews, shall not escape the hands of God.³² Know that we perish because of our sins.³³ Our living Lord punishes and corrects us for a short time because he is angry with us, but he shall again be reconciled with his servants.

³⁴And you, the most wretched and impious man, do not be proud or be carried away by your vain hopes. Do not raise your hand against the children of Heaven,³⁵ for you have not yet escaped the judgment of the almighty God, who sees everything.³⁶ Our brothers suffered a short time for the sake of eternal life and have already entered into the friendship of God. But you, for your part, shall suffer the punishment you deserve for your arrogance.

³⁷With my brothers, I give up my body and my soul for the laws of my fathers, calling on God that he may at once have pity on our race, and that by trials and afflictions, you may come to confess that he is the only God.³⁸ Through me and my brothers, may the wrath of the Almighty which has justly fallen on the whole of our race come to an end.

³⁹The king was even more infuriated at him than at the others because of his mockery and he dealt more cruelly with him.⁴⁰ So the youngest also died undefiled, putting his whole trust in God.

⁴¹After all her sons, the mother also died.

⁴²This is enough to make known what happened regarding the pagan sacrifices and the tortures beyond all imagination.

猶大的新作為

12 38 猶大重整軍隊，前往阿杜藍城。因為已是周末。他們就在那裏自潔，過安息日。39 第二天，猶大的部隊收殮陣亡者的屍體（事不宜遲），將他們安葬在祖墳裏，與親族在一起。40 他們在死者的內衣下發現了雅木尼雅偶像的咒符，這是律法禁止佩帶的。人人便都明瞭了這些人的死因。

41 於是眾人讚頌公義審判、揭露隱密的上主；42 祈求上主完全赦免他們陣亡同伴的罪。

英勇的猶大激勵部下今後不再犯這罪過。他們已經親眼看到同伴因自身的罪而導致的下場。43 他在士兵中募集了兩千銀“達瑪”，送到耶路撒冷，作贖罪祭的獻儀。

他很好地做了這一切，堅信死者復活。44 如果他不相信死去的同伴會復活，那麼為死者祈禱便是一樁無意義而愚蠢的事。45 但是他堅信，死去的信者都將有美好的酬報；因此他的思想是神聖而虔敬的。

New deeds of Judas

12 38 Judas reorganized his army, and then went to the city of Adullam. Since it was the week's end, they purified themselves and celebrated the sabbath there. 39 The next day the companions of Judas went to take away the bodies of the dead (it was urgent to do it) and buried them with their relatives in the tombs of their fathers. 40 They found under the tunic of each of the dead men objects consecrated to the idols of Jamnia, which the Law forbade the Jews to wear. So it became clear to everyone why these men had died.

41 Everyone blessed the intervention of the Lord, the just Judge who brings to light the most secret deeds; 42 and they prayed to the Lord to completely pardon the sin of their dead companions.

The valiant Judas urged his men to shun such sin in the future, for they had just seen with their own eyes what had happened to those who sinned. 43 He took up a collection among his soldiers which amounted to two thousand pieces of silver and sent it to Jerusalem to be offered there as a sacrifice for sin.

They did all this very well and rightly inspired by their belief in the resurrection of the dead. 44 If they did not believe that their fallen companions would rise again, then it would have been a useless and foolish thing to pray for them. 45 But they firmly believed in a splendid reward for those who died as believers; therefore, their concern was holy and in keeping with faith.