

Week 43, Lecture 140, Part 3 of Jonathan's Rule.¹ 1 Maccabees 11.

Context.

Last week we covered the first part of the rule of Jonathan, after the death of Judas Maccabee, chapters 9-10.

This week we will cover the final part of Jonathan's rule, 1 Maccabees 11-12.

The following outline gives an overview of the rule of Jonathan. I will not go through it in detail.

Outline of 1 Maccabees 9-12² [No need to go over outline aloud in lecture]

I. The Death of Judas	9:1-22	already covered (lecture 131)
II. Jonathan's Rise to Power	9:23-73	Lecture 138
A. The Succession of Jonathan	9:23-31	
B. Early Campaigns of Jonathan	9:32-49	
C. The Strategy of Bacchides	9:50-53	
D. The Death of Alcimus	9:54-57	
E. The Last Expedition of Bacchides	9:58-73	
III. Jonathan's Rule	10:1-12:53	Lecture 139
A. Jonathan & King Demetrius I	10:1-14	
B. Jonathan & Alexander Epiphanes	10:15-21	
C. The Reaction of Demetrius I	10:22-45	
D. Jonathan & Alexander	10:46-66	
E. The Uprising of Demetrius II	10:67-69	
F. The Coming of Ptolemy VI	11:1-19	Lecture 140 (this lecture)
G. Demetrius II	11:20-53	
1. Demetrius II's Rise to Power	11:20-37	
2. The Rule of Demetrius II	11:38-53	
H. Jonathan & Antiochus IV	11:54-74	
I. The Relationship with Rome	12:1-23	Lecture 141 (next lecture)
J. Further Campaigns for Antiochus VI	12:24-38	
K. The Capture of Jonathan	12:39-53	

Scripture Version.³ Based on Sir Lancelot Brenton's 19th century translation, but updated by me.

11:1-19, The Coming of Ptolemy VI [No need to read aloud. Summarize]

11:1 The king of Egypt gathered together a great army, like the sand that lies upon the sea shore, and many ships, and went about through deceit to get Alexander's kingdom, and join it to his own.² And he made his journey into Syria in peaceable manner, so that they of the cities opened to him, and met him: for king Alexander had commanded them so to do, because he was his father-in-law.³ Now as Ptolemy entered the cities, he stationed a garrison of soldiers in every one of them soldiers to hold it.⁴ And when he came near to Azotus, they showed him the temple of Dagon that was burnt, and Azotus and its suburbs that were destroyed, and the bodies that were cast abroad and them that he had burnt in the battle; for they had made heaps of them by the way where he should pass.⁵ Also they told the king whatever Jonathan had done, to blame him: but the king held his peace.⁶ Then Jonathan met the king with great pomp at Joppa, where they saluted one another, and lodged.⁷

¹ Lectures numbered consecutively. This is this week's 1st lecture, but its number reflects its place in the **total** sequence.

² Generally I will follow the divisions of Doran in the *New Interpreter's Bible*, vol. 4, pp. 112-178. He usually follows the paragraphing of the two translations he is using, the NAB and the NRSV.

³ The English is based on Brenton's 19th century version, accessed via *BibleWorks*. At times I modify it to make it more literal. I have also Americanized (honor > honor) and updated (followeth > follows) the spelling.

Afterward Jonathan, when he had gone with the king to the river called Eleutherus, returned again to Jerusalem.

Politics: Ptolemies and Seleucids

Ever since the death of Alexander the Great there has been friction among those controlling parts of his empire. The Ptolemies control Egypt. The Seleucids, with their base in Syria, control Asia as far as India. In chapter 10 we read of trouble in the Seleucid Empire. Alexander Balas has defeated Demetrius I to become king. King Ptolemy VI has given his daughter Cleopatra to Alexander Balas as his wife in 150 B.C. (1 Macc 10:57). Because he is Alexander's **father-in-law**, Alexander does not object when Ptolemy begins to move north. Alexander orders his cities to open their gates and welcome Ptolemy. However, King Ptolemy stations garrisons of his own soldiers in every city!

Complaints against Jonathan in Azotus

Jonathan has fought in favor of Alexander Balas vs. the supporters of Demetrius. In Azotus he burned the Temple of Dagon where they took refuge, killing 8,000 men (1 Macc 10:85). The residents of Azotus have piled the bodies along the way that King Ptolemy must pass. Imagine the stench! King Ptolemy makes "no comment" at this point, as the slaughter was in favor of his son-in-law, Alexander.

The Temptations of Power

Note that the Maccabees began fighting as "freedom fighters" for the Jews. Now Jonathan has involved his army in wars of pagans vs. pagans to get a "better deal" for the Jewish people. Comments Doran: "Only when the Seleucids were weak could the small state of Israel hope to gain its independence."⁴

My reflections: Does any of this have to do with the **Temptation of Jesus?**

No need to read following text aloud. Summarize.

⁸ King Ptolemy therefore, having gotten control of the cities by the sea to Seleucia upon the sea coast, was plotting wicked schemes against Alexander. ⁹ And he sent ambassadors to King Demetrius [i.e., II], saying, "Come, let us make a league between us, and I will give you my daughter whom Alexander has, and **you shall reign in your father's kingdom**." ¹⁰ For I regret that I gave my daughter to him, for he sought to slay me." ¹¹ Thus did he slander him, because he was desirous of his kingdom. ¹² So he took his daughter from him, and gave her to Demetrius, and forsook Alexander, so that their hatred was openly known. ¹³ Then Ptolemy entered Antioch, where he set **two crowns** upon his head, the crown of Asia, and of Egypt.

¹⁴ Now King Alexander was in Cilicia, because those in that region had revolted from him. ¹⁵ But when Alexander heard of this, he came to make war against him: and king Ptolemy brought out his army, and met him with a mighty force, and put him to flight. ¹⁶ So Alexander fled into Arabia to be defended there; but king Ptolemy was triumphant ¹⁷ for Zabdiel the Arab cut off Alexander's head, and sent it to Ptolemy. ¹⁸ King Ptolemy also died the third day after, and they that were in the strongholds were killed by the inhabitants of the strongholds. ¹⁹ By this means Demetrius reigned in **the hundred sixty-seventh year** [i.e., of the rule of the Greeks].

Summary of 11:8-19. King Ptolemy now changes sides!

He takes his daughter away from Alexander Balas, and gives her to **Demetrius II**, son of the slain Demetrius I. [The daughter is still very young. Had she actually left Egypt yet? Or was she still living with Dad?]

Ptolemy takes advantage of the youth of his new son-in-law to put on **two crowns**: Egypt & Asia.

He is trying to re-unite the major portions of the empire Alexander the Great had conquered.

Demetrius, only 15 years old, will **reign over the Seleucid Kingdom of his father**, Demetrius I. Ptolemy's army defeats Alexander Balas, who flees to "Arabia" (= an area East of Damascus).

⁴ Doran, "1 Maccabees," *New Interpreter's Bible*, vol. 4, p. 130.

A certain Arab named Zabdiel cuts off his head and sends it to Ptolemy. But he dies 3 days later!
It is the **167th year** of the rule of the Greeks, i.e., **145 B.C.** (NRSV note).

Demetrius II. Doran divides 11:20-53 into two sections.

1) 11:20-37, Demetrius II' Rise to Power. 2) 11:38-53, The Rule of Demetrius.

Summarize 20-29

11:20-37, Demetrius II's rise to power. At the same time Jonathan gathered together them that were in Judea to take the tower that was in Jerusalem: and he made many engines of war against it. ²¹ Then came ungodly persons, who hated their own people, went to the king, and told him that Jonathan besieged the tower, ²² Whereof when he heard, he was angry, and immediately removing, he came to Ptolemais, and wrote to Jonathan, that he should not lay siege to the tower, but come and speak with him at Ptolemais in great haste.

²³ Nevertheless Jonathan, when he heard this, commanded to besiege it still: and he chose certain of the elders of Israel and the priests, and put himself in peril; ²⁴ And took silver and gold, and raiment, and divers presents besides, and went to Ptolemais to the king, where he found favor in his sight. ²⁵ And though certain ungodly men of the people had made complaints against him, ²⁶ Yet the king entreated him as his predecessors had done before, and promoted him in the sight of all his friends, ²⁷ And confirmed him in the high priesthood, and in all the honors that he had before, and gave him preeminence among his chief friends. ²⁸ Then Jonathan desired the king, that he would make Judea free from tribute, as also the three governments, with the country of Samaria; and he promised him three hundred talents. ²⁹ So the king consented, and wrote a letter to Jonathan of all these things after this manner:

Summary of 11:20-29. Jonathan takes advantage of the internal divisions in the Seleucid Empire. He begins to besiege the Acra, the Fortress in Jerusalem that is the last vestige of Seleucid Power. King Demetrius summons him; he goes, but he does not lift the siege. He takes a risky course. He arrives with priests & elders -- evidence of popular support. He brings with him presents (bribes) for King Demetrius to show he is a loyal subject. He promises 300 talents to the financially strapped king if he will make Judea free from tribute. King Demetrius II is in a weak position. He agrees to the proposals of Jonathan.

30-37, Letter to Jonathan. King Demetrius to his brother Jonathan, and to the nation of the Jews, sends greeting: ³¹ We send you here a copy of the letter which we wrote to our **Kinsman** Lasthenes concerning you, that you might see it.

32-37, Enclosed Letter to Lasthenes. King Demetrius to **Father** Lasthenes sends greeting:

³³ We are determined to do good to the people of the Jews, who are our friends, and keep covenants with us, because of their good will toward us. ³⁴ Wherefore we have ratified to them the borders of Judea, with the **three governments** of Aphairema and Lydda and Ramathaim, that are added to Judea from the country of Samaria, and all things appertaining to them, for all such as do sacrifice in Jerusalem, instead of the payments which the king received from them yearly previously out of the fruits of the earth and of trees. ³⁵ And as for other things that belong to us, of the tithes and customs pertaining to us, as also the salt pits, and the crown taxes, which are due to us, we discharge them of them all for their relief.

³⁶ **And none of this shall be revoked from this time forth forever.** ³⁷ Now therefore see that you make a copy of these things, and let it be delivered to Jonathan, and set upon the holy mount in a conspicuous place.

Remarks on the Correspondence. The letter to Jonathan contains an enclosure, a letter to Lasthenes. Lasthenes appears to be a "Kinsman," i.e., higher than "Friend" or "Chief Friend" of the king. The 15-year-old king honors the older man with the title "Father." He adds "three governments" to the area under Jonathan's control. He grants a great deal of tax relief. He claims that this relief will **never be revoked**. (He will break this promise in verse 53.)

11:38-53, The Rule of Demetrius II. After this, when king Demetrius saw that the land was quiet before him, and that no resistance was made against him, he sent away all his forces, everyone to his own place, except certain bands of strangers, whom he had gathered from the isles of the heathen: **wherefore all the forces of his fathers hated him.**³⁹ Moreover there was one Trypho, that had been of Alexander's part afore, who, seeing that all the army murmured against Demetrius, went to Imalkue the Arab who brought up **Antiochus the young son of Alexander,**⁴⁰ And insisted that he deliver him this young Antiochus, **that he might reign** in his father's stead: he told him therefore all that Demetrius had done, and how his men of war were at enmity with him, and there he remained a long season.

Summary of 11:38-53. Demetrius is now encountering no resistance.

The young king disbands most of his army. He keeps a relatively small force of mercenary troops.

Armies are expensive! The problem is, now he has a bunch of discontented unemployed soldiers.

Consider the contemporary problem of the USA with the "Bathist" soldiers of the defeated Iraqi army.

Consider the criticism faced by General Patton for his use of former Nazi troops after WWII.

Back to the 2nd century B.C. **All the soldiers now hate Demetrius II.**

The death of Alexander Balas has not ended Seleucid divisions.

A certain Arab is raising the baby son of slain Alexander Balas.

General Trypho is going to proclaim the 2-year old as the rightful king, Antiochus VI. **Summarize 11:41-53.**

11:41-53, Rebellion in Antioch & Aftermath. In the meantime Jonathan sent to king Demetrius, that he would cast those of the tower out of Jerusalem, and those also in the fortresses: for they fought against Israel.⁴² So Demetrius sent to Jonathan, saying, I will not only do this for you and your people, but I will greatly honor you and your nation, if opportunity serve.⁴³ Now therefore you shall do well, if you send me men to help me; for all my forces are gone from me.⁴⁴ Upon this Jonathan sent him three thousand strong men to Antioch: and when they came to the king, the king was very glad of their coming.⁴⁵ Howbeit they that were of the city gathered themselves together into the midst of the city, to the number of an hundred and twenty thousand men, and would have slain the king.⁴⁶ Wherefore the king fled into the court, but they of the city kept the passages of the city, and began to fight.⁴⁷ Then the king called to the Jews for help, who came to him all at once, and dispersing themselves through the city killed that day in the city up to **100,000 people.**⁴⁸ Also they set fire on the city, and gat many spoils that day, and delivered the king.⁴⁹ So when they of the city saw that the Jews had got the city as they would, their courage was abated: wherefore they made supplication to the king, and cried, saying,⁵⁰ Grant us peace, and let the Jews cease from assaulting us and the city.⁵¹ With that they cast away their weapons, and made peace; and the Jews were honored in the sight of the king, and in the sight of all that were in his realm; and they returned to Jerusalem, having great spoils.

⁵² So king Demetrius sat on the throne of his kingdom, and the land was quiet before him.

⁵³ **Nevertheless he lied in all that ever he spoke, and estranged himself from Jonathan;** and he did not reward him for to the benefits which he had received from him, but afflicted him very much.

Summary of 11:41-53. There is a rebellion in Antioch.

Demetrius II promises Jonathan he will remove the soldiers in the Acra and give him more honors if he supports him.

Jonathan sends Jewish troops who **massacre 100,000** rioting civilians.

Actually the slaughter was the work of both the Jews and the mercenary troops not dismissed by Demetrius.

While 1 Maccabees does not mention the action of the king's mercenaries in these events, the Greco-Roman historian **Diodorus Siculus (33.4.2-3) does not mention the Jews,** and so one can sense the nationalistic flavor of the accounts. The author of 1 Maccabees extols the glory of the victory—the Jews have won wealth and a name for themselves by defeating civilians . . .⁵

Once secure in power, Demetrius ignores all of his promises to Jonathan (v. 53). **Summarize 54-74.**

⁵ Robert Doran, "[The First Book of Maccabees.](#)" in *New Interpreter's Bible*, ed. Leander E. Keck, vol. 4 (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994–2004), 138.

11:54-74. Jonathan & Antiochus VI. ⁵⁴ After this returned **Trypho**, and with him the young child **Antiochus**, who reigned, and was crowned. ⁵⁵ Then there gathered to him all the men of war, whom Demetrius had dismissed, and they fought against Demetrius, who turned his back and fled.

⁵⁶ Moreover Trypho took the elephants, and won Antioch. ⁵⁷ At that time **young Antiochus wrote** to Jonathan, saying,

I confirm you in the high priesthood, and appoint you ruler over the four governments, and to be one of the king's friends. ⁵⁸ With this he sent him golden vessels to be served in, and gave him leave to drink in gold, and to be clothed in purple, and to wear a golden buckle.

⁵⁹ His brother Simon also he made captain from the place called The ladder of Tyre to the borders of Egypt. ⁶⁰ Then Jonathan went forth, and passed through the cities Beyond the River (i.e., west of the Euphrates), and all the forces of Syria gathered themselves to him for to help him: and when he came to Askalon, they of the city met him honorably. ⁶¹ From whence he went to Gaza, but they of Gaza shut him out; wherefore he laid siege to it, and burned the suburbs thereof with fire, and spoiled them. ⁶² Afterward, when they of Gaza made supplication to Jonathan, he made peace with them, and took the sons of their chief men for hostages, and sent them to Jerusalem, and passed through the country to Damascus.

⁶³ Now when Jonathan heard that Demetrius' princes were come to Cades, which is in Galilee, with a great army, purposing to remove him out of the country, ⁶⁴ He went to meet them, and left Simon his brother in the country. ⁶⁵ Then Simon encamped against Beth-Zur and fought against it a long time, and besieged it. ⁶⁶ But they desired to have peace with him, which he granted them, and then put them out from thence, and took the city, and set a garrison in it.

⁶⁷ As for Jonathan and his army, they pitched at the water of Gennesaret, and early in the morning they arrived at the plain of Hazor. ⁶⁸ And, behold, the army of strangers met them in the plain, who, having laid men in ambush for him in the mountains, came themselves over against him. ⁶⁹ So when they that lay in ambush rose out of their places and joined battle, all that were on Jonathan's side fled; ⁷⁰ There was not even one of them left, except Mattathias the son of Absalom, and Judas the son of Chalphi, the captains of the army. ⁷¹ **Then Jonathan rent his garments, and cast earth upon his head, and prayed.** ⁷² Afterwards turning again to battle, he put them to flight, and so they ran away. ⁷³ Now when his own men who had fled saw this, they returned to him again, and with him pursued them to Cades, as far as their own tents, and there they camped. ⁷⁴ So there were slain of the heathen that day about three thousand men: and Jonathan returned to Jerusalem.

Summary of 11:54-74. General Trypho takes advantage of the unrest against Demetrius.

He has the two-year old son of the slain Alexander Balas & Cleopatra Thea crowned as King Antiochus VI.

He will rule only until age 5, 145-142 B.C.⁶

He gathers all the dismissed soldiers into an army, and revolts against Demetrius II.

Trypho writes a letter in the name of the 2-year old king to Jonathan for support.

Jonathan joins the fight against Demetrius. Demetrius brings a huge army to Galilee.

The battle begins badly for Jonathan. Most of his troops flee.

Jonathan responds with piety. **He rends his garments, casts earth on his head, and prays.**

His troops return, and he is victorious.

Week 43, Lecture 141, The End of Jonathan's Rule. 1 Maccabees 12.

Overview of chapter 12. Doran divides the chapter into 3 sections.

1-23, The Relationship with Rome

24-38, Further Campaigns for Antiochus VI

39-53, The Capture (& Death) of Jonathan

⁶ Doran, "First Maccabees," *NIB* vol. 4. Table on page 135. See also p. 140.

Summary of 12:1-4. These verses introduce us to Jonathan's international politics outside the Seleucid Empire. He is in communication with Rome and with Sparta. We have copies of letters, possibly genuine.

12:1-4. Now when Jonathan saw that time served him, he chose certain men, and sent them to Rome, for to confirm and renew the friendship that they had with them. ² He sent letters also to the Spartans, and to other places, for the same purpose. ³ So they went to Rome, and entered into the senate, and said, Jonathan the high priest, and the people of the Jews, sent us to you, to the end you should renew the friendship, which you had with them, and league, as in former time. ⁴ Upon this the Romans gave them letters to the governors of every place that they should bring them into the land of Judea peaceably.

Letter to the Spartans

⁵ **This is the copy of the letter which Jonathan wrote to the Spartans:**

⁶ Jonathan the high priest, and the elders of the nation, and the priests, and the other of the Jews, **to the Spartans their brethren: Greetings!** ⁷ There were letters sent in times past to Onias the high priest from Darius, who reigned then among you, to signify that you are our brethren, as the copy here underwritten specifies. ⁸ At that time Onias entreated the ambassador that was sent honorably, and received the letter, wherein declaration was made of the league and friendship. ⁹ Therefore we also -- **albeit we need none of these things, because we have the holy books of scripture in our hands to comfort us** -- ¹⁰ have nevertheless attempted to contact you to renew brotherhood and friendship, lest we should become complete strangers to you; for a long time has passed since you wrote to us. ¹¹ We therefore at all times without ceasing, both in our feasts, and other convenient days, do remember you in the sacrifices which we offer, and in our prayers, as reason is, and as it becomes us to think upon our brethren: ¹² And we rejoice in your reputation (*doxa*, glory). ¹³ As for ourselves, we have had great troubles and wars on every side, and the kings around us have fought against us. ¹⁴ However, we would not be troublesome to you, nor to others of our allies and friends, in these wars: ¹⁵ **For we have help from Heaven⁷ that aids us**, so that we are delivered from our enemies, and our enemies are brought under foot. ¹⁶ For this reason we chose Numenius the son of Antiochus, and Antipater the son of Jason, and sent them to the Romans, to renew the amity that we had with them, and the former league. ¹⁷ We commanded them also to go to you, and to salute and to deliver you our letter concerning the renewing of our brotherhood. ¹⁸ Therefore now you would do well to give us an answer.

V. 6 is a **Traditional Salutation: Sender + Receiver + Greetings.** We find this in the letters of Paul.

v. 9 & 15 undiplomatic phrases. = "We really don't need allies!"

If the letter is genuine, the author of 1 Maccabees probably added this for pious Jewish eyes.

v. 11. **A familiar theme in Paul:** Remembering those who are beloved in prayer.

Enclosed Letter Previously Sent by King Arius to the High Priest Onias (from ca. 300 B.C.)

¹⁹ **This is the copy of the letter which Onias sent.**

²⁰ Arius king of the Spartans to Onias the high priest, greeting: ²¹ It is found in writing, that the Spartans and Jews are brethren, and that they are of the stock of Abraham: ²² Now therefore, since this is come to our knowledge, you shall do well to write to us of your prosperity. ²³ We, for our part, write back to you that your cattle and goods are ours, and ours are yours. We therefore command our ambassadors to report this to you.

Arius & Onias. Doran identifies "Arius" as King Areus I of Sparta (c. 312-265 B.C.)

The Onias in question would be Onias I (320-290 B.C.)

⁷ "Heaven" is capitalized since it is short for "the God of heaven." The full phrase appears in 1 Macc 3:18 and 4:55. The phrase is **late**, appearing only 29 times in the OT, mainly in the last books of the Hebrew Bible to be written (2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Daniel, along with deuterocanonical books: Tobit & Judith, in addition to 1 Maccabees.

Ancient Genealogies

These often do not reflect actual physical kinship. Rather they are based on current political relationships. One of the fruits of *Divino Afflante Spritu* (Pius XII, 1943) is better understanding of ancient “literary forms.”

12:24-38, Further Campaigns for Antiochus VI [Summarize.]

²⁴ Now when Jonathan heard that Demetrius' princes had come to fight against him with a greater army than before, ²⁵ He moved out of Jerusalem, and met them in the land of Hamath: for he gave them no respite to enter his country. ²⁶ He sent spies also to their tents, who came again, and told him that they had decided to come upon them in the night time. ²⁷ So as soon as the sun was down, Jonathan commanded his men to watch, and to be in arms, that all the night long they might be ready to fight: also he sent forth sentinels round about the army. ²⁸ But when the adversaries heard that Jonathan and his men were ready for battle, they feared, and trembled in their hearts, and they kindled fires in their camp. ²⁹ However, Jonathan and his troops did not know this until the morning: for they saw the lights burning. ³⁰ Then Jonathan pursued after, but did not overtake them, for they were gone over the river Eleutherus. ³¹ So Jonathan turned to the Arabians, who were called Zabadeans, and smote them, and took their spoils. ³² And breaking camp, he went to Damascus, and passed through all the district.

³³ Simon also went forth, and passed through the country to Askalon, and the strongholds adjoining it; from there he turned aside to Joppa, and took it. ³⁴ For he had heard that they would deliver the stronghold to those that supported Demetrius; so he set a garrison there to hold it.

³⁵ After this Jonathan came home again, and calling the elders of the people together, he consulted with them about building strongholds in Judea, ³⁶ And making the walls of Jerusalem higher, and raising a great barrier between the tower and the city, to separate it from the city, that so it might be alone, and that people might neither sell nor buy in it. ³⁷ So they came together to build up the city, for part of the wall toward the brook on the east side had fallen down, and they repaired that which was called Caphenatha. ³⁸ Simon also set up Adida in Shephelah, and made it strong with gates and bars.

Summary of 12:24-38.

Demetrius sends a larger army against Jonathan. He becomes aware of their plans.

The enemy is fearful, and slips away at night. Jonathan cannot catch them, but attacks their Arab allies.

Simon takes Ashkelon, which was supporting Demetrius, and installs a garrison there.

Jonathan returns to Jerusalem. They fortify the city, and erect a barrier between it and the Acra.

He and Simon also fortify outlying areas.

12:39-53, General Trypho Changes Strategy

³⁹ Now Trypho went about to seize the kingdom of Asia, and to kill Antiochus the king, that he might set the crown upon his own head. ⁴⁰ However he was afraid that Jonathan would not allow him, and that he would fight against him; so he sought a way how to capture Jonathan, that he might kill him. He departed, and came to Beth-shan. ⁴¹ Then Jonathan went out to meet him with forty thousand men chosen for the battle, and he came to Beth-shan. ⁴² Now when Trypho saw Jonathan had come with so great a force, he did not dare to stretch his hand against him; ⁴³ Rather, he received him honorably, and commended him to all his friends, and gave him gifts, and commanded his men of war to be as obedient to him, as to himself. ⁴⁴ He also said to Jonathan, “Why have you brought all this people to so great trouble, seeing there is no war between us? ⁴⁵ Therefore send them home again now, and choose a few men to serve you, and come with me to Ptolemais, for I will give it to you, and the rest of the strongholds and forces, and all the officials: as for me, I will depart and go home: for this is why I came.

Reflections. Trypho sees that a military decision, even if successful, would be extremely costly. He resorts to deceit. Jonathan is vulnerable to flattery.

Ultimately the politics of the Seleucid empire, from which he had benefited, became his undoing.

Jonathan Captured.

⁴⁶ So Jonathan believing him did as he said, and sent away his army. They went to the land of Judea. ⁴⁷ He kept with himself only but three thousand men. Of these he sent two thousand to Galilee, and one thousand went with him. ⁴⁸ Now as soon as Jonathan entered into Ptolemais, the inhabitants of Ptolemais shut the gates and captured him, and all them who had come with him they slew with the sword.

Apparently Jonathan is taken alive, but all those with him were slaughtered.

Trypho Follows Up.

⁴⁹ Then Trypho sent an army of infantry and cavalry into Galilee, and into the great plain, to destroy all Jonathan's company. ⁵⁰ But when they **learned that he had been captured and had perished, and those with him**, they encouraged one another; and went close together, prepared to fight. ⁵¹ Therefore those pursuing them, perceiving that they were ready to fight for their lives, turned back. ⁵² And they all arrived in the land of Judea peaceably, and there they bewailed Jonathan and them that were with him, and they were very afraid; and all Israel made great lamentation.

Is Jonathan Dead Yet? He had apparently been captured alive in V. 48. Verse 50 is translated different ways.

. . . learning that **Jonathan** had been **captured** and his companions **killed**,⁸ . . . (NAB)

. . . learning that **Jonathan** had been **captured and killed** along with his companions, . . . (NABRE)

I think the NABRE is an improvement in this passage. Here is my literal translation:

. . . learned that **he** had been **captured and had perished**, and those with him . . .

The name "Jonathan" does not actually appear in this verse. Most translators supply it for clarity.

I double-checked to see if there were any manuscripts that might support the old NAB, but did not find any.

Conclusion

⁵³ Then all the heathen that were round about then sought to destroy them: for said they, They have no captain, nor any to help them: now therefore let us make war upon them, and wipe out their memory from humanity.

Once again, the author draws on a theme from the book of Judges. When a judge dies, there is a crisis.

This provides the introduction to the rule of Simon Maccabee.

The final chapters of 1 Maccabees, chapters 13-16, are devoted to the rule of Simon Maccabee.

⁸ There was a little "technical difficulty," a glitch in the recording instrument, that caused the word "killed" to be omitted from this sentence. For some reason, the chip in the camera "choked," but the mic by my computer got it right. The radio mike was not plugged in, so it was not recording -- I sound very "distant" on the original camera audio. Therefore I had to combine my laptop voice recording of the audio with the video. At this point in the lecture I had to chop out about ½ second of video to resynchronize audio and video, or I would look like a badly dubbed Japanese horror movie from the 1950's where my mouth did not match the words you are hearing!