

1 Maccabees 1-2 - Mattathias the Rebel

1. Read **1 Maccabees 1:1-2:69** to find the answers which belong in the numbered blanks below, and then print the answers in the crossword puzzle.

The great Greek king (1), the son of Philip of (2), conquered the Persian Empire and forced all the people to pay (3) to him. When he died his (4) took control, and one of their descendants, (5) (6), began to rule Syria in 175 BCE. About that same time, some traitorous (7) began to follow the customs of the Gentiles and to abandon the covenant of their father by surgically hiding their (8).

After Antiochus defeated King (9) of Egypt, he marched against Jerusalem. He took gold from the (10) and (11) so many people that there was great (12) throughout the land. (13) years later he sent another army to Jerusalem. When the Jews accepted Antiochus' terms of (14), he tricked them and built a (15) next to the temple,.

He then issued a (16) which tried to make the Jews offer sacrifices to (17), work on the (18) day, sacrifice (19) in the temple, and forget the (20) of Moses, under penalty of (21). So faithful Jews had to (22), especially after Antiochus set up (23) on the altar in the temple. He also had mother who circumcised their (24) put to death, and he forced the Jews to eat food that was ritually (25).

The man who finally rebelled against this was a priest named (26). He and his five sons--(27), (28), (29), (30), and (31)—were so sad at what was happening that they wore (32). An official came to their town, (33), to force the people to offer pagan (34); he even offered to give Mattathias silver and (35) if he would be first. But Mattathias vowed to keep God's (36), and he became so (37) that he (38) the official. Then he and his followers fled to the (39).

Later the king's (40) caught another group of Jews and (41) them, even though they didn't resist. Mattathias decided his group must (42) themselves, even on the Sabbath. Their army of (43) Jews retaliated by attacking the (44) Jews. Before he died, Mattathias told his sons to follow the (45) of their ancestor Abraham, Joseph, (46), Joshua, (47), (48), (49), and (50).

2. Mattathias' last word to his sons in **1 Maccabees 2:64** is a motto for this entire book. Fill in the blanks:

"My children, be _____, and grow _____
in the _____, for by it you will gain _____."

