



Later the Maccabees, regaining power, cleanse the temple. Yet, they still have battles to fight.

-Hanukkah-rededication of 2nd temple. Festival of lights. see Josephus Antiquities Book 12, ch 7.

Daniel 11:31 And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily [sacrifice], & they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.
32 And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do [exploits].

Hereupon **Lysias** was confounded at the defeat of the army which he had sent, and the next year he got together **sixty thousand** chosen men. He also took five thousand horsemen, and fell upon Judea; and he went up to the hill country of Bethsur, a village of Judea, and pitched his camp there, where **Judas** met him with **ten thousand** men; and when he saw the great number of his enemies, he **prayed to God that he would assist him**, and joined battle with the first of the enemy that appeared, and **beat them, and slew about five thousand of them, and thereby became terrible to the rest of them.** Nay, indeed, Lysias observing the great spirit of the Jews, how they were prepared to die rather than lose their liberty, and being afraid of their desperate way of fighting, as if it were real strength, he took the rest of the army back with him, and **returned to Antioch**, where he listed foreigners into the service, and prepared to fall upon Judea with a greater army.
6. When therefore the generals of Antiochus's armies had been beaten so often, **Judas** assembled the people together, and told them, that after these **many victories which God had given them, they ought to go up to Jerusalem, and purify the temple, and offer the appointed sacrifices.** But as soon as he, with the whole multitude, was come to Jerusalem, and found the temple deserted, and its gates burnt down, and plants growing in the temple of their own accord, on account of its desertion, he and those that were with him began to lament, and were quite confounded at the sight of the temple; ... then therefore he had carefully purged it, and had brought in new vessels, the candlestick, the table [of shew-bread], and the altar [of incense], which were made of gold, he hung up the veils at the gates, and added doors to them. He also took down the altar [of burnt-offering], ... this **desolation came to pass according to the prophecy of Daniel**, which was given four hundred and eight years before; for he declared that the **Macedonians would dissolve that worship [for some time].**
7. Now **Judas celebrated the festival of the restoration of the sacrifices of the temple for eight days**,... after a long time of intermission, they **unexpectedly had regained the freedom of their worship**, that they made it a law for their posterity, that they should keep a festival, on account of the restoration of their temple worship, for eight days. And from that time to this we celebrate this **festival, and call it Lights.**
Josephus Antiquities of the Jews B 12, ch 7