

"FAITHFULNESS IS REWARDED"

The Second Book of Maccabees

Who wrote The Second Book of Maccabees?

The exact identity of the author of The Second Book of Maccabees is unknown.

How did The Second Book of Maccabees, get its name and/or what does that name mean?

The content of this book discusses the exploits of Judas Maccabee. More attention is paid in this book to God's judgment and man's response as a result of these events than to their account as history.

When did these events take place?

The Second Book of Maccabees covers a time period of 19 years from 180 B.C. thru 161 B.C.

For more about The Second Book of Maccabees:

See page 468 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

How willing are you to stand up for what you believe is right even as you are surrounded by a culture that sends you wrong messages? Having sex before marriage, lying when it's convenient, cheating to get ahead and even aborting an unwanted child are sins in today's society that a lot of people don't think are sins at all. They have become blind to the truth and are no longer listening to God.

The Book of 2 Maccabees is a story about how willing a few people were to resist the influences of the same kind of elements in a Godless culture. It celebrates the message that God's will is the only correct choice and that every form of resistance to sin will ultimately be rewarded by Him - even after death. The Jews in the second century B.C. were dominated by the Greek society that put idols ahead of God. In Hellenistic Greece, man's pursuit of pleasure and enjoyment were of main concern. A belief in God was "in the way" and could not be tolerated.

The Jews that resisted this influence (like Judas Maccabee) did everything they could to preserve their faith in the midst of this storm. The Second Book of Maccabees tells of God's rewards for this faithfulness and of His ultimate punishment of the Greeks and even the Jews that turned their backs on Him. The lessons in The Second Book of Maccabees remind us that some things are more important than earthly pursuits. Here we are reminded of the importance of our life after death and that the only reason for our earthly life is to prepare for our eternal life that will follow.

Interesting Fact: The Catholic teachings of the intercession of the saints, life after death and praying for the souls in purgatory are supported by Scripture found in The Second Book of Maccabees.

Bonus Point: What arrogant and impious king was literally "eaten alive" by worms?