

There is another book of the so-called Apocryphal books called the book of I Maccabees. II Maccabees comes historically before this. II Macc. tells of the events which occurred when the individual Jews refused to surrender to Ant. E. and give up their faith. I Macc. tells about how a group of these Jews gathered about their leaders, seven sons of a priest, who proved to be such fine warriors, they called them the Maccabees, the hammers, the fighters. These men whom they called the Maccabees under the leadership of Judas Maccabeas formed a little band in the wilderness, and began attacking the supply forces of A.E., and gradually they won some small skirmishes, and they gained some equipment, and then more Jews joined with them, and eventually it became a big enough army to meet in a battle, and to win the battle they had an interesting history told in I Macc., but eventually Judas Macc. was killed, and then his brother Jonathan Macc. became the leader, and Jonathan led, and they increased in strength, and eventually they nearly gained their independence ~~was~~, but Jonathan, the strategy was worked to get him into the power of his enemies, and he was killed, and then a third brother, Simon Maccabeus took over the leadership, and he succeeded in winning freedom ~~from~~ for the Jews from the Syrians, the forces which A. E. controlled, tho he wasn't actually present as the leader. And eventually they gained their freedom, partly because they made a treaty of friendship with the distant Roman empire, which helped them to gain their freedom. Well, this is period of persecutuion and difficulty through which the Jews won out, and Simon's ~~defendants~~ descendents were leaders of the Jews for a period of about a century. Eventually they degenerated to the point where most of the Jews were strongly against them, but they began with a great noble history in this period of terrific difficulty and persecution. Would it not be logical and reasonable to suggest that one of the primary reasons for the writing for the book of Daniel was to prepare the Jews for the time of A.E., to give them encouragement in this period of persecution and ~~it~~ difficulty, to rally them around, and make them easier for ~~them~~ them to go on and win the victory. That is a reasonable suggestion. ~~Why~~ It may be also for the Chinese and the Russians today, maybe also for the people of the Reformation in the time of the