

The Unknown Dynasty



**By Rabbi Moshe Yoseph Koniuchowsky
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A True Perspective of the Chashmonayim

One of the least known facts is that a historical superpower and dynasty existed in Yisrael for about 150 years prior to Yahshua's first coming, and ruled Yisrael for most of that time as well. Since we struggle with a Greco-Roman culture that desires to destroy the things of Tzion, including our TRUE history, naturally when recording history, these cultures left out any details of Yisrael's last great dynasty, almost 900 years after the House of David's rein over the earth, in the days of Solomon.

As we study the books of the Maccabees, in both First and Second Maccabees, we are left with an entirely different picture than the one painted by history, or at least a truer picture of just who the Maccabees were. The account of Chanukah and the rededication of the Temple back to YHWH and away from Zeus, is a well-known part of the Hasmonean dynasty. But in a fuller perspective, it can be likened unto a small recliner chair in the midst of a spacious 10,000 square foot home. A microcosm of the full events. Let's look at some facts:

- The dynasty began with Mattityahu/Mattathias a kohen and lasted some 150 years. It began with a complete overthrow of Antiochus Epiphanies, or the Illustrious One. 1: 41-64 Maccabees, 1 Maccabees 2:20-22, 2:29, 2:39-47, 3:34-37, 3:42-60, 4:8-11, 4:30-34. The thing to realize is that Yahudah, as his father Mattityahu before him, combined the physical and spiritual aspects of Torah life in battle. They sought deliverance by YHWH alone, but stood up to the sons of Greece and Syria and later Rome, by action. For faith without works is dead. Keep in mind that the Maccabees were all kohanim/levites as well, so we begin to see an emergence of a ruling royal family that has the DNA of the Aaronic priesthood, that seized the cultural, spiritual as well as military leadership of the nation. All aspects of key national functions were amalgamated under the leadership of this royal family. 1**

Maccabees 4:36-61 tells of the account of the most well known of their victories on behalf of Yisrael.

- After establishing the Temple and rededicating it, Yahudah began to seize other gentile territories around Yisrael including Galilee, Gilead, the east bank of Jordan and modern day Jordan, or Idumeia. Read 1 Macc. 5:1-3. Later he was victorious in seizing and expanding Jewish sovereignty over Tyre and Sidon, or modern Lebanon, and Iraq as seen in his capture of the town of Bosrah 1 Macc. 5:28.
- While this was going on his brother Simon was victorious in his own company in Galilee areas as well 1 Macc. 5:21. The Maccabees took the 2.5 tribes east of the Jordan to Jerusalem to consolidate more power as seen in 1 Macc. 5:45, as well as conquering Hebron, all of the west bank, the coastal cities of Gaza and all the cities of the Plishtim, as seen in 1 Mac 5:63 . Philistines to the south and west were seized by this emerging power. Ephraimites were rescued from Samaria and brought to Jerusalem as well! The power of the emerging Hasmonean dynasty was so encompassing, that it not only seized almost all the land promised to the patriarchs as 'greater Yisrael,' but also convinced Antiochus Epiphanes that he had done wrongly, as he lay dying of illness. See 1 Macc. 6:8-13. Antiochus's son was so afraid of Yisrael, that he made peace with them, as did many leaders in the region, as they would rather be ruled by the Hasmoneans than be killed by them.
- After defeating the Greco-Syrian armies along with the Arabs nations in all the outlying areas, mighty Rome had begun to emerge by subjecting all its foes including the Syrians and Greeks. Yet Rome was so fearful of the Hasmoneans, that they went out of their way to avoid any engagement with them on the battlefield 1 Macc. 8:17-31. When Yahudah dies, 1 Macc. 9:19-22, his brothers Jonathan and Simeon took over the Hasmonean leadership 1 Macc. 9:23. Many of the evildoers reappeared to destroy the gains by Yahudah. So all united behind Jonathan 1 Macc. 9:30-31. Jonathan served to defeat even more foes and began to rule over Yisrael as a judge, as had the judges back in the days of the Book of Judges. So in addition to all other powers vested in the Hasmoneans, they also began to sit over Yisrael as judges of Torah matters, seeing they were also kohanim, and their influence not only allowed them to judge these matters, but they began to actually run the operations of the Temple on Moriah, that they had rededicated to YHWH 1 Mac 10:10. Rome later expanded their peace with the Hasmonean dynasty to include all of Rome and all their states throughout the world 1 Macc. 15:22.
- Alexander, Antiochus Epiphane's son, was so frightened of the power of the Hasmoneans, that not only he sued for peace, he allowed and encouraged Jonathan to become the Kohen Ha Gadol over all of the sacrificial system as seen in 1 Macc. 10:18-21. Counter offers from the Greeks, offered to make all Jewish areas including Jerusalem TAX EXEMPT AND DUTY FREE forever 1 Macc. 10: 27-31, including the areas of Ephraim in Samaria. Demetrius the Greek leader also offered the Hasmoneans, ALL DAYS OFF FOR ALL MAODIM/FEASTS AND SHABBATS

AND ROSH CHODASHIM/NEW MOONS, in addition to 3 extra days before and after these feasts to prepare. That's the kind of reverence and awe that Yisrael's enemies afforded the Hasmoneans and their dynasty. Its not that they allowed them these benefits, but they were so fearful of them, that these benefits were offered as incentives to avoid conflicts with them. **What is most interesting, is that Rome, Greece, Syria and all the surrounding areas of Arabs, all tried to vie with each other, making the best deal possible with the Hasmoneans and as such peace was brought to the entire region for all the inhabitants of the lands under Hasmonean control.** Read 1 Mac 10:38-45 to see the extent of those kinds of proposals. And, there were many, including giving money to the Temple functions! In 1 Macc.10:86-89, we see Jonathan adding the role of King to the Hasmonean repertoire. **So in Jonathan and later Simon and others too numerous to mention, the roles of King, Judge, High Priest, Governor and Chief of the military all resided in the ruling elder of the Hasmoneans.** Thus an interrupted chain of superpower, might and strength, lasted well over 150 years, almost to the time of Yahshua's first advent.

- **As seen in 1 Macc. 11:59, Simon the brother of Jonathan, ruled from Tyre in the north, to Egypt in the south. 1 Macc. 11:62, includes Gaza in the west and Damascus in the north. Under Jonathan and Simon, Rome strengthened its friendship with the Hasmoneans and even the Spartans and Macedonians sought peace with the Hasmoneans, lest they be overcome. We see in 1 Macc. 12:20-23, that it was a well-known fact the Greeks and Spartans were part of the 10 tribes of scattered Ephraim Yisrael! They sought peace with the Hasmoneans not only out of awe and reverence, but also out of brotherly recognition and care. This is a fabulous yet little known historical reference to the Yisraelite roots of Western Europe.**
- **Under Simon and Jonathan, Jerusalem was not only fortified, BUT COMELY REBUILT, as seen in 1 Macc. 12:37. He assumed the office of High Priest as well 1 Macc. 13:36-42! Simon's son John was appointed General and military Chief under Simon Read 1 Macc. 14:16-20.**
- **The people of Yisrael were so awestruck by the Hasmonean leadership that they erected special bronze tablets on Mt. Zion and in the Temple courts as a national monument for the dynasty that led them to gain multiple victories over their enemies for 150 years Read 1 Macc. 14:29-36-49.**
- **The Hasmoneans developed their own monetary system and coinage, a sign of a nation's complete sovereignty, as seen 1 Macc. 15:6-7, as well as becoming the largest producer and exporter of weapons for war in the world, so much so, that they exported their weapons to others for profit.**
- **When Simon died, his sons took over as seen in 1 Macc. 16:2-3 and 23. Verse 23 is an interesting insight into the Hasmonean power and authority, by stating that Simon's son John's acts are recorded in the Acts of The Pontificate, indicating to us that in ancient Yisrael, the unquestioned leader of the Hasmonean dynasty was seen in a similar**

way to the modern Pope. Like popery, the dynasty eventually became corrupted by power, as absolute power corrupts absolutely. YHWH allowed Rome to overcome the dynasty due to their sinful pride and political corruption.

Have you ever heard the Hasmoneans described in such a way with such universally recognized power and might? Were you aware that they, not David and Solomon, were the last ruling dynasty over and amongst Yisrael? If not, understand it is because the Greco-Roman culture has conveniently omitted this from modern textbooks, so as to continue to glorify the sons of Greece, over the arrow-throwing warriors known as the overcoming people of Yaakov/Jacob.