

The verse continues: "Then he will turn back and vent his fury against the holy covenant." Antiochus tried to hide his disappointment and frustration from the world while pouring out his burning anger against the seemingly helpless Jews. After using gifts and flattery to persuade as many Jews as possible to forsake the religion of their fathers, he introduced severe persecution. Soldiers were sent with orders to kill any woman who had her child circumcised and to compel every Jew to sacrifice to Zeus. The regular ceremonies of the temple were stopped and an altar of Zeus was placed above the altar of the Lord, so polluting the sanctuary that no pious Jew could worship there.

### **The Fate of God's People: The Maccabean Revolt**

(32) With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him. (33) Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered. (34) When they fall, they will receive a little help, and many who are not sincere will join them. (35) Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time.

Verses 32-35 describe the Maccabean uprising. Although many Jews were corrupted by the king's favor, others lost their lives rather than submit, and some resisted by force. One of these was Mattathias, an elderly priest from the little town of Modin. When the king's soldiers tried to compel everyone in Modin to sacrifice to the heathen gods, Mattathias forcibly resisted them and pulled down the pagan altar. Then he and his five sons fled into the wilderness where other groups were already hiding. Under the leadership of Mattathias these refugees began guerilla operations. When the priest died he was succeeded by his son, Judas Maccabeus, who proved to have unusual military