

# The Second Book of the Maccabees

## Introduction – Chapter 6

### **Author and date**

What period do the books of one and two Maccabees originate from?

What are the differences between one and two Maccabees?

### **Title**

Where is the title Maccabees derived from?

### **Place in the canon**

What is the canonicity of one and two Maccabees?

### **Structure**

What is the structure of second Maccabees?

### **Literary background**

How does 1 Maccabees contrast with 2 Maccabees?

## **Themes and characteristics**

What are the themes and characteristics of the book?

## **Christian perspective**

What is the Christian perspective of second Maccabees?

What do the two letters that are contained in the first two chapters relate to?  
(Note 1:1–2:18)

Read 1:1-9 Who is the first letter addressed to? (Note 1:1)

What is the content of the letter? (Note 1:2-5)

When are the feasts of booths and Hanukkah celebrated? (Note 1:9)

Read 1:10 What is the senate? (Note 1:10)

How does the second letter recount the wonders that God has worked in Israel's history? (Note 1:18-2:15)

Read 1:18 What is the feast of fire? (Note 1:18)

Read 1: 30–33 How do Christians interpret this mysterious fire water? (Note 1:31–33)

What is the traditional Hanukkah story (Note 1:36)

Read 2:23–32 What is divine inspiration? (Note 2:23-32)

Who is Jason of Cyrene? (Note 2:23)

Read 3:1-6 Who is Onias? (Note 3:1)

Read 4:1-17 Who is the brother of Onias? (Note 4:7)

What is a gymnasium? (Note 4:12)

Read 4:22-26 Who is Menelaus? (Note 4:23-25)

Read 4:39-42 Are most of the people opposed to Hellenization? (Note 4:39-42)

Read 5:1, 5:5-20 Are institutes for the sake of man? (Note 5:19)

Read 5:21–27 Does Judas Maccabeus escape the persecution? (Note 5:27)

Read 6:1–7 Who is Zeus and Dionysus? (Note 6:2) (Note 6:7)

Read 6:12–17 Is God quick to punish his chosen ones? (Note 6:12-17)

Read 6:18–31 Was Eleazar's martyrdom an inspiration to the early Church? (Note 6:24)