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

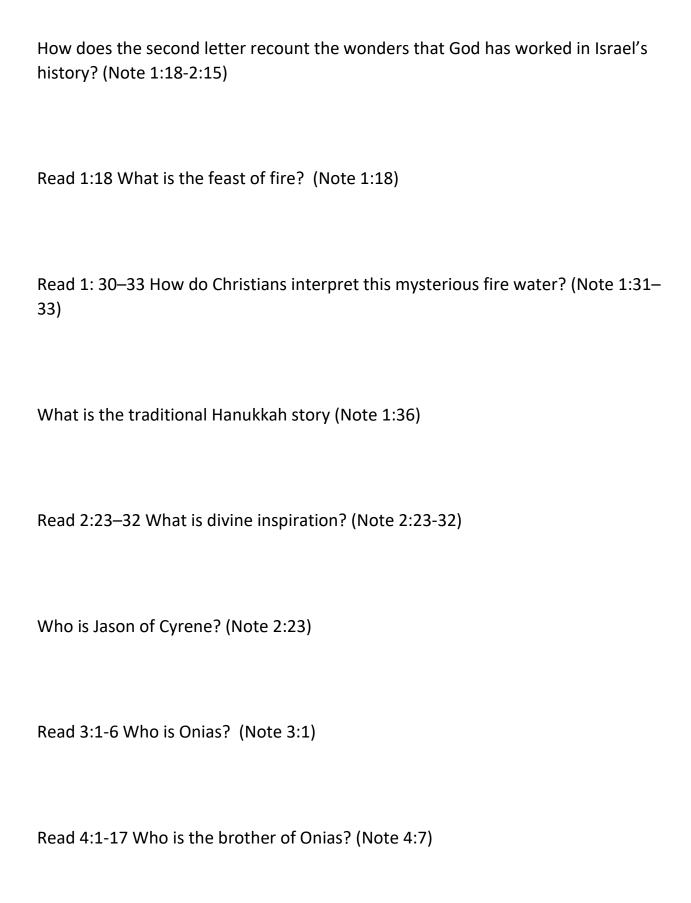
What is the structure of second Maccabees?

Literary background

How does 1 Maccabees contrast with 2 Maccabees?

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)

Themes and characteristics



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)