

The event took place about 2200 years ago, in Eretz Israel during the era of the second Temple. The Jews lived in Eretz Israel peacefully.



The Greek Empire, which at that time ruled large parts of the world, also conquered the area of Eretz Israel and the surrounding territory. They issued decrees against the Jews, but the Jews weren't able to comply with them.



Antiochus Epiphanes - Antiochus IV, issued in 167 BC a number of decrees against the Jewish religion, forcing the Jews to idolatry. As part of the decrees, the Jews were ordered to stop worshipping in the Temple, to desecrate the Sabbaths and holidays, to eat non-kosher foods and to stop perform circumcision.



The Jews were desperate. One of the powerful kings at that time issued cruel decrees against the Jews preventing them to practice the religion they believed in.



What should they do?

The reactions of the Jews split and varied between different groups and approaches.

