

### 3610

- The Syrian-Greeks began their persecution by forbidding certain offerings in the Beis HaMikdash (Temple), but eventually stopped the service there entirely.
- The Syrian-Greeks instituted harsh decrees with the goal of eliminating Jewish religious observance, specifically directing their decrees at: Shabbos observance, Rosh Chodesh (the declaration and observance of the new lunar month; the failure to observe this would result in the nullification of the observance of the yomim tovim), and Bris Milah (circumcision).
- On the 17th of Tammuz, Apustomus burned a Torah scroll.
- Chana's seven sons were killed for refusing to bow down to a Greek idol.

### 3621\*

The revolt by Matisyahu, from the family of Kohanim known as Chashmonai, and his five sons, Yochanan, Shimon, Yehuda, Elazar, and Yonatan, began in Modi'in and quickly spread.

### 3622

- After a year of leading the growing Jewish rebellion and winning many battles, Matisyahu died and his son Yehuda, known as the Maccabi (hammer), became the leader after him.
- On the 24th or 25th of Kislev, the rebellion gained control of the Beis HaMikdash (the Temple) and entered it, although the fighting with the Syrian-Greeks would continue for many more years. The Chashmonaim got to work cleaning, repairing, and rebuilding the Temple, finding a single, small container of olive oil suitable for lighting the menorah for a single day. The oil miraculously burned for 8 days in the makeshift menorah that the Chashmonaim created.
- Yehudis, the daughter of Yochanan ben Matisyahu, infiltrated a Syrian-Greek military camp and killed the general, Holofernes, causing the Syrian-Greek army to flee in terror and confusion.

### 3623

- Yochanan ben Matisyahu, the Kohen Gadol, composed the *Al HaNissim* prayer which we insert in *Bentching* (grace after meals) and *Shemoneh Esrei*.
- Chanukah was declared to be a festival.

### 3628

In the many ensuing battles that took place, Elazar was crushed by an elephant and Yehuda was also killed. Yonatan ben Matisyahu became ruler of Yehuda (Judea).

### 3634

Yonatan was killed in battle and his brother, Shimon ben Matisyahu, became the ruler of Yehuda (Judea).

### 3700

The Romans gained control over Yehuda (Judea) III

### 3600

Eretz Yisrael (the land of Israel) fell under the dominion of the Syrian-Greeks.

### 3570

Jewish Hellenists and other breakaway groups promoted the acceptance of Greek culture.

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