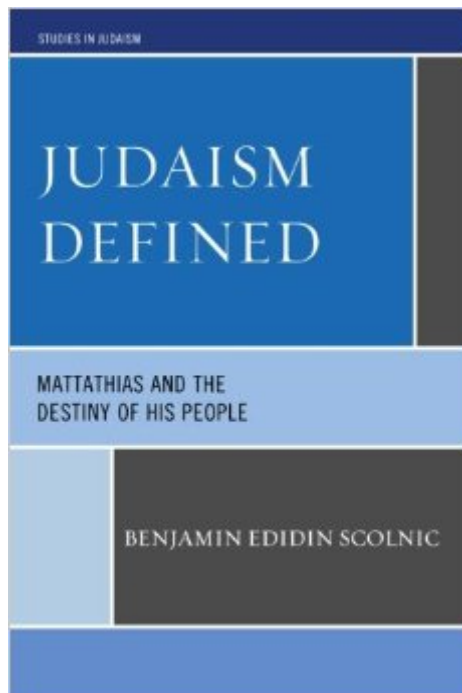


The book was found

# Judaism Defined: Mattathias And The Destiny Of His People (Studies In Judaism)



## Synopsis

Scholars have questioned every aspect of the story of Mattathias in 1 Maccabees; the revisionist narrative turns Mattathias and his Maccabees from the heroes of the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah and idealistic fighters for religious freedom, into merely ambitious men who ruthlessly strove for power and usurped the high priesthood of Judaea. Dr. Benjamin Edidin Scolnic takes a fresh, unbiased approach to every element of the story: the incident at Mode'An, Mattathias's priestly credentials and their implications for his beliefs, the meaning of personal ambition and the greater ambition to create the Jewish kingdom promised by the sacred biblical texts, the meaning of circumcision in his time, and the decision to fight on the Sabbath. Mattathias's actions of zealous violence, as controversial as they were in both his day and as they often are seen today, were primarily for the preservation of his religion and people. Dr. Scolnic asserts that it was Mattathias who defined Judaism and Jewishness for his time.

## Book Information

Series: Studies in Judaism

Paperback: 262 pages

Publisher: UPA (April 12, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0761851178

ISBN-13: 978-0761851172

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.7 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,067,071 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #259 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > Middle Eastern #400 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > Jewish #1787 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > History

## Customer Reviews

This book is primarily a commentary on parts of 1 and 2 Maccabees, often (but not always) focusing on the differences between them. For example: 1 Maccabees has Mattathias (father of the Maccabee brothers) start the rebellion, while 2 Maccabees ignores him. Scolnic finds 1 Maccabees more plausible, and discusses 1 Macc.'s treatment of Mattathias in great detail. He notes that 1 Macc. has a Hellenistic streak, in that Mattathias tells his sons that they shall win "great glory"- a

value that is more commonly emphasized in Greek literature than in Jewish literature. By contrast, 2 Macc. is a bit more pious in that it emphasizes the afterlife more and worldly glory less.\*Why did Antiochus punish circumcision? Scolnic notes that in addition to being a hot-button issue, it was more easily discoverable than other Jewish rituals. And for the same reason, the Maccabees forced circumcisions when they took over.\*1 Macc. suggests that Hellenist Jews disguised their circumcision and engaged in naked athletic contests with Greeks, while 2 Macc. is more ambiguous about such things. Scolnic prefers the former source, reasoning that if Jews sent a delegation to Greek games (as 2 Macc. admits) they must have participated, and if they participated they would have looked as Greek-like as possible to avoid ridicule. Not wrong but a bit speculative to say the least. Why, then does 2 Macc. not discuss such behaviour? Scolnic suggests that it wants to emphasize martyrdom more and Jewish bad behavior a little less.\*Why were Jews willing to martyr themselves for circumcision in response to Antiochus's edicts? Scolnic discusses other Jewish literature, and suggests that some Jews thought their salvation in their afterlife was at stake.\*1 Macc.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Judaism Defined: Mattathias and the Destiny of His People (Studies in Judaism) How To Analyze People: Mastering Analyzing and Reading People: (How To Read People, Analyze People, Psychology, People Skills, Body Language, Social Skills) Destiny: Destiny Guide & Game Walkthrough (Hint, Cheats, Tips AND MORE!) Covenant of Blood: Circumcision and Gender in Rabbinic Judaism (Chicago Studies in the History of Judaism) UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES & MISSING PEOPLE.: MISSING PEOPLE CASE FILES; UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES; MISSING PEOPLE. (UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES : MISSING PEOPLE Book 2) Comparing Judaism and Christianity: Common Judaism, Paul, and the Inner and the Outer in Ancient Religion Judaism: Everything You Need to Know About: Jewish Religion; Jewish Culture; and the Process of Converting to Judaism ( How to Become a Jew ) Arctic Twilight: Reflections on the Destiny of Canada's Northern Land and People SDN and NFV Simplified: A Visual Guide to Understanding Software Defined Networks and Network Function Virtualization Software Defined Radio using MATLAB & Simulink and the RTL-SDR The Cigarette Century: The Rise, Fall, and Deadly Persistence of the Product That Defined America Angels with Dirty Faces: How Argentinian Soccer Defined a Nation and Changed the Game Forever Human Perception of Objects: Early Visual Processing of Spatial Form Defined by Luminance, Color, Texture, Motion, and Binocular Disparity What's the Difference?: Manhood and Womanhood Defined According to the Bible The Hobbyist's Guide to the RTL-SDR: Really Cheap Software Defined Radio 1812: A Traveler's Guide to the War

That Defined a Continent History: The Ancient Civilizations That Defined World History WW2  
History: The Events that Defined World War II (World War 2, WWII, History, Dday, Pearl Harbor)  
Mo' Urban Dictionary: Ridonkulous Street Slang Defined Liberty Defined: 50 Essential Issues That  
Affect Our Freedom

[Dmca](#)