



## Questions for Deeper Reflection

### Maccabees, Martyrdom & Mercy

APRIL 2021



1. The battle scenes in First Maccabees are stories of war, intrigue and murder. They remind us of scenes from The Lord of the Rings. Yet, even in this bloody time, God's hand is seen, testing His people to ultimately bring them back to Himself. When have I felt God testing me...and how did I respond?
2. The Maccabees, like the Jews of older times, succeed only by God's help and fail only when they turn away from God. Where am I being challenged in my own life today, and to whom am I turning?
3. God's providence over history was keeping the nation of Israel alive, against all odds, because they were His chosen people, the people from whom His promised Messiah was to come. This was the 'dark' before the 'dawn'. What has struck me most in our journey through the Old Testament?