



THE Hanukkah Story

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More than two thousand years ago, a Greek king called Antiochus ruled over a vast empire. In every land of his empire, he ordered people to give up their own religious beliefs and to worship the Greek gods instead. Only the Jews in Israel refused to obey the king.

“Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord,” they shouted. “Hosanna in the highest.”

The Jews wanted to follow their own religion. They wanted to worship one God and no other, as their holy books had taught them to do. But King Antiochus wanted the Jews to follow Greek customs and traditions. Furious, he decided to punish the Jews and to try to destroy the Jewish religion.

