

CHANUKAH

PARTS

Narrator:

King:

Attendant:

Jew #1:

Jew #2:

Jew #3:

General #1:

General #2:

General #3:

General #4:

Greek Officer:

Mattathias:

Sons of Mattathias (4):

Judah:

Trumpet-player:

Narrator: Long ago, in the land of Syria, there was once a king named An-tie-o-kiss. An-tie-o-kiss ruled over the land of Syria with a heavy hand and he made the kings of many other lands pay him tribute. And then he built a monument to himself, a mighty city that he named An-tee-ock, after himself. The trouble was, the more power he had, the more he wanted.

King: [TALKING MOSTLY TO HIMSELF] I want to rule the world! Like Caesar! Think of it, my glory will fill the entire world!

Attendant: Anything you say, your majesty.

Narrator: He may have been mighty, but he was also a fool.

King: I think I'll call myself Ee-pih-funnies. It has a nice ring to it, don't you think?

Attendant: What?

King: Ee-pih-funnies. Aren't you listening? It means the God that is. Yes [TAKING UP MIRROR AND LOOKING INTO IT] It makes a lot of sense. Then all men will worship me as a God. An-tie-o-kiss the god. . . .

Narrator: But the Jews had a different name for him.

*Jews #1,2,3,
Mattathias,
and Sons:*

We call him An-tie-o-kiss the madman.

Narrator:

Now it happened that in the year 168 before the Common Era, An-tie--o-kiss decided to take revenge on the Jews and the city of Jerusalem.

King:

Where are my generals? Get them in here.

Attendant:

Yes, your majesty [ATTENDANT HURRIES TO BRING IN GENERALS]

King:

I can't stand these Jews that live in the land of Israel. In their heart of hearts, I know, they hate me. I'm sure they are hoping that I will die.

General #1:

And you will . . . eventually.

King:

What!? What was that!?

General #1:

Nothing! [BACKING UP] Nothing, your majesty. . . .

King:

We must be clever. These Jews are not like us. They refuse to sacrifice to our Gods. They refuse to obey our laws. But [RUBBING HANDS TOGETHER] I will bring them down. I will put a yoke on their necks. Do you hear me?

Generals:

Yes, your majesty. . . . [GENERALS EXIT]

Narrator:

And An-tie-o-kiss sent a great army against the Jews. And . . . there was no one to stand up against it. The people were afraid. And the army tore down the walls of Jerusalem. And they broke into the Temple, and robbed it of its treasure. And Jerusalem was destroyed. But this wasn't nearly enough for An-tie-o-kiss. And he called for his generals [GENERALS HURRY IN] and said:

King:

It's not enough, I tell you! I want you to get rid of the Torah. And get rid of all the schools where the Torah is taught.

Generals:

Yes, your majesty.

King:

They want to observe the Jewish customs? Let them pay for it with their lives.

Generals:

Yes, your majesty.

King:

I hereby decree. There is to be no more circumcision. And no one is to keep kosher, either. They will see what happens when

they have to deal with a great and powerful king like me. They want to keep the Sabbath? We will make them violate it. . . . [SUDDENLY LOOKING AT GENERALS AND RAISING VOICE] Do you hear me! Make them bow down before our gods. Make them bring sacrifices to our gods on our altars. We will see who is in charge. . . . [LOOKING INTO MIRROR AGAIN]

Generals: Yes . . . of course, your majesty. . . . [BACKING AWAY AND MAKING GESTURE LIKE THE KING IS CRAZY]

King: And send my servants throughout the land to make sure that all this is done. . . . [GENERALS HURRY INTO LOBBY]

Narrator: And when they returned. . . [GENERALS HURRY BACK IN TO KING] . . . the king asked them.

King: Did you do what I told you?

General #2: Yes, we went from town to town and we destroyed the synagogues. . . .

General #3: And, we forced the Jews to bow down before Greek idols and to break the Jewish dietary laws, just like you said.

King: What about the Torah scrolls?

General #4: We destroyed them.

General #1: Anyone who dared to get in our way, we put to death.

General #2: There were a lot who died.

General #3: You're forgetting. We made the Temple of the Jews into a temple to our god Zooce. And we put up a big statue of him in the middle of the sanctuary. Then we sacrificed a pig on the altar.

King: Good! [GENERALS EXIT]

Narrator: When the remaining Jews in Jerusalem heard about this they were horrified:

Jew #1: What can we do?

Jew #2: Nothing—if you want to live.

Jew #3: We must flee for our lives. . . . [JEWS #1, 2 & 3, MATTATHIAS AND SONS GO UP ONTO BIMAH]

Narrator: And so they did. The people fled Jerusalem in great numbers until it was like a deserted city. Now it happened that a Greek

officer came to the village of Modin . . . [JEWS #1, 2 & 3, MATTATHIAS AND SONS COME TO SPACE IN FRONT OF CENTER OF BIMAH, GREEK OFFICER ENTERS TO CENTER OF SPACE IN FRONT OF BIMAH] . . . which is not far from Jerusalem. Among those who were gathered there, was a man named Mat-a-thie-us. And with him were his five sons: Yo-hanon, Shee-moan, Judah, Elee-eizer, and Jonathan. And the Jews there asked:

*Sons of
Mattathias:*

Who are you?

Greek Officer:

What's it to you? I am here to carry out the decree of An-tie-o-kiss. I am raising an altar to the Greek Gods, and you will sacrifice a pig on it.

*Sons of
Mattathias:*

Us?

Greek Officer:

Yes, you! . . . Listen, all you have to do is be the first one to worship idols, and then I'll give you money and a noble title. How about it?

Narrator:

And Mattathias said:

Mattathias:

You may force others to bow to your demands and give up their faith, but I and my family will stay true to the Torah [GREEK OFFICER EXITS TO LOBBY]

Narrator:

And Mattathias gathered his people to him . . . [SONS OF MATTATHIAS, JUDAH AND JEWS 1, 2, & 3 GATHER CLOSE TO MATTATHIAS] . . . and he said:

Mattathias:

O my brothers! Let others obey King An-tie-o-cuss if they want. But let us swear that we shall not leave the path of our religion to go either to the right or to the left. Take up arms! Whoever is for God, let him follow me!

Narrator:

And he and his five sons, and many others, fled into the hills . . . [MATTATHIAS AND SONS, JUDAH AND JEWS #1, 2, & 3, GO TO REAR CORNER OF BIMAH] . . . where they lived for many years. When the time came for Mattathias to die, for he was very old, he called his five sons together. . . [MATTATHIAS AND SONS, JUDAH COME OUT ONTO CENTER OF BIMAH] . . . and said:

Mattathias:

O my sons! I must now leave you. And so, I want to appoint a leader over you and over our army. I therefore choose you, Judah. In wisdom and heroic deeds you are like Judah, the son of Jacob. Judah was said to be like a lion, and so are you. May our

enemies tremble when they feel your strength. Serve God with all your heart and soul.

Narrator: And saying this, Mattathias died . . . [MATTATHIAS GOES TO REAR CORNER OF BIMAH] . . . and Judah was general in his place. Judah was so fierce in battle that the Jews called him Makabee, which in Aramaic means “hammer,” for he struck at the Greeks like a mighty hammer, blow after blow. And because of his courage, the people found new hope and new courage and many took up arms and fought with him against the Greeks. For they saw that he was wise and a great leader. When Antiochus heard about this, he flew into a rage.

King: What! They dare to defy me! I’ll show them.

Narrator: And he again sent for his generals. . . . [GENERALS AND GREEK OFFICER HURRY IN]

King: Have you heard what Judah the Maccabee has done to me?

Generals: Yes your majesty.

King: What are you going to do about it? He has destroyed all my armies and killed many of my generals. This must stop! Now! Do you hear me?

Generals: Yes your majesty.

Narrator: And the king sent army after army against the Jews [JEWS #1, 2, & 3 COME OUT TO CENTER OF BIMAH] And when the Jews saw the great army that was sent against them, they were terrified and they said:

Jew #1: There are so many of them!

Jew #2: How will we ever defeat them?

Jew #3: We are lost!

Judah: [JUDAH GETS UP ON A CHAIR ON BIMAH] It’s true. The Greeks are mighty. But God is more mighty. Do not fear the enemy even though they are many and we are few. Know that God is with us, even though we are weak. . . . [RAISING A FIST INTO THE AIR] Strengthen your hearts. Take courage!

Narrator: And he appointed over them leaders of thousands, and leaders of hundreds and leaders of tens. And he told them:

Judah: My fellow Jews! Let us fight for the liberty of our people and the honor of our Torah.

Jew #1: But if we fight, we may die!

Judah: If we do not fight, we will be killed, and our women and children will be sold into slavery. Therefore, we must fight. Do not be afraid! For the God who led us out of slavery in Egypt will not abandon us!

Narrator: And Judah commanded the trumpeters to sound the call to battle. . . . [TRUMPET NOISE] And the Jews fought mightily. And they chased the armies of An-tie-o-kiss into the sea. . . . [SONS OF MATTATHIAS, JUDAH AND JEWS 1, 2, & 3 CHASE KING, ATTENDANT, AND GENERALS OUT] After the departure of the enemy, Judah assembled the people in Jerusalem and he said to them:

Judah: [SPEAKING FROM BACK OF ROOM] Let us go up to the House of God and purify it!

Narrator: And after that, they carefully purified the Temple and threw out all the idols and their altars. Then, they brought in new utensils, and the seven-branched golden menorah, and they built a new altar. And so on the twenty-fifth day of the month of Kislev, Judah rededicated the Temple. But when they got ready to light the oil lamps of the menorah, and they went to look for the olive oil to light it, they found only one small container of oil. It was only enough oil for one day. Yet a miracle happened. The oil burned for eight days. And as Judah Maccabee looked at the flames flickering in the Menorah, he declared:

Judah: Every year, from this time forth, let the Jews in every land celebrate these eight days of Chanukah as a joyous feast in gratitude for God's many miracles.

Narrator: On the 25th day of Kislev of each year the Jews were to celebrate the Festival of Lights. They were to burn lights during this time . . . [NARRATOR READS VERY SLOWLY AS SINGERS BEGIN TO ENTER FROM LOBBY ONTO BIMAH FROM BOTH SIDES] . . . adding a new light each night. . . . [CONTINUING WHEN ALL SINGERS ARE IN PLACE] They were also to sing songs of praise to celebrate the triumph of Israel in the struggle for its freedom. . . . [ALL SING: "LIGHT ONE CANDLE"]