



Eight Days

(Historical animated book and short movie about Hanukkah)

By
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Eight Days

INT: 356 B.C.E. Pella, Macedonia. PHILIP of Macedon and Princess of Epirus smile as they look at their baby ALEXANDER. 1

PHILIP

You have given me a beautiful son, my Princess of Epirus, and with your help I predict great things for him.

EPIRUS

Having you as a father, who is a great general, I am certain that he will become Alexander the great, hopefully as great as you.

CUT TO:

INT: 13 years later. Both wearing Greek robes, ARISTOTLE, reading from a manuscript is teaching a wide-eyed and eager ALEXANDER. 2

ARISTOTLE

I, who have studied under Plato for twenty-years, have been influenced by the great master of intellect, and I have learned as hopefully you will Alexander, that literature is the key to yours and the Greek civilization's survival. If we do not learn from our mistakes, we are bound to repeat them, do you understand?

ALEXANDER

I know wise master, with your guidance I will learn from past mistakes, not only mine and as you have instructed me, I must also participate in sports and develop a strong body, for a strong body leads to a strong
(Flexes his muscles.)
mind, is that not so? Do, I not look strong, Master Aristotle?

ARISTOTLE

Indeed you do, young Alexander, but it is time we focus on what matters most! Logic, which includes the following: substance, quantity, relation, place, time situation, condition, action and passion. The knowledge of logic will help you become a man of destiny you are destined to become, no pun intended.

ALEXANDER

Teach me great master, for I am but your student who seeks thy all knowing wisdom.

ARISTOTLE

Do not use flattery as a ploy, for I have been flattered by the best, now listen and do not
(Reads from manuscript.)
interrupt! The soul is the perfect expression or realization of a natural body, but as the truth of the body – the substance in which only the bodily conditions gain their real meaning.

ALEXANDER

Are you saying that the body and soul are one?

ARISTOTLE

That is for you find out now, silence! In order for you to attain any measure of happiness, it must emanate from your soul. The ability to regulate our desires is not instinctive, but learned and is the outcome of both teaching and practice. Second, if we regulate desires either too much or too little, then we create problems and beware; excess **(Pounds on table.)** or deficiency of gymnastic exercise is fatal to strength.

ALEXANDER

Have you not told me that desire-regulating virtues are character traits and are not to be misunderstood, or...

ARISTOTLE

...As either emotions or mental facilities. Brilliant! Your retention is extraordinary. I have had many students, some with your shear brawn and some with your intellect, but none that has combined the both as you and I believe your destiny is a great one: One day you will rule all of humanity!

ALEXANDER

(Embraces Aristotle.)

I am humbled master, for you are wiser than any man alive. And you should be the ruler of all of mankind, not I.

CUT TO:

2 SHOT: FIVE YEARS LATER: Palace. PHILIP is proud as HE speaks to ALEXANDER: 3

PHILIP

My handsome son, you have impressed and made me proud of you and I am pleased beyond mere words.

ALEXANDER

I am but a mere product of you being such a caring and benevolent father.

PHILIP

I merely gave you the opportunity, but it is you who have become wise beyond your years. Despite you being only 18 years old, I have come to the conclusion that it is time you become ambassador to Athens for all of Greece and so shall it be!

ALEXANDER

But father, I am too young to be an ambassador.

CUT TO:

EXT: Battleground. Wearing crown of a king, WE see ALEANDER fighting. 4

CUT TO:

EXT: City of Thebes. Another battle. ALEXANDER is victorious. HE speaks to crowds. 5

ALEXANDER

My beloved countrymen, in order to restore quiet and civility and unite all Greek cities, I hereby decree the League of Nations from which we shall all abide!

The crowd cheers: “Alexander the great, Alexander the great.” 6

CUT TO:

EXT: With army, ALEXANDER marches into Persia and on the banks of the Granicus River defeats the Persian army.

CUT TO:

EXT: Jerusalem: The high Priest of the temple in Jerusalem fearing that ALEXANDER would destroy the city goes out to meet HIM at the outskirts of the city. Upon seeing the the High Priest, ALEXANDER dismounts and bows to the Priest. Soldiers are amazed that ALEXANDER bowed to Jewish Priest. 7

GENERAL

May I ask my sire, why have you bowed to the Jewish scum High Priest?

ALEXANDER

I did not bow before him, but before that G-d who has honored him with high Priesthood; for I saw this very Priest in a dream, in this very same apparel. It is a good omen, and I will spare the land of Israel and absorb it into my empire.

CUT TO: 8

HIGH PRIEST

As a tribute to Alexander who has spared our people and our beloved temple, I ask that the first born of all our people name their son Alexander.

THRONGS of PEOPLE

(Cheering.)

ALEXANDER, ALEXANDER,
ALEXANDER!

9

EXT: 333 B.C.E. With troops, ALEXANDER marches into Syria and defeats King Darius and his beleaguered troops. Triumphant, ALEXANDER addresses the people.

CUT TO: 10

ALEXANDER

I hereby decree that this land that lies between Lake Mareotis and the Mediterranean Sea shall be called Alexandria and so it shall be!

The crowd cheers! “Alexander the great, Alexander the great.” 11

CUT TO: 12

INT: Babylon. 323 B.C.E. In bed. ALEXANDER knows he is dying and speaks to servants.

ALEXANDER

I know that my empire stretches from the Ionian Sea to northern India, but as you know I've had greater aspirations, Marcus. I have dreamed of combining Asia and Europe and calling my territory, Babylon. I dreamed of intermarriage, doing away with corrupt officials and spread Greek ideas, customs and law throughout Asia and the entire world.

MARCUS

Do not despair, my Lord for you have conquered most of the civilized world and
(Kisses Alexander's ring.)
 are truly the greatest general of all time.

CU: ALEXANDER dies and Jews are glad: 13

CUT TO:

EXT: 175 BC: Dismayed, Jewish crowds outside temple have to listen to ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES who is the new king. 14

ANTIOCHUS

As your new leader, I hereby decree that you Jews are not allowed to follow your disgusting religion that you call Judaism or practice the laws of your faith or you shall be put to death. So shall it be!

The JEWS are horrified, a few agree. 15

ANTIOCHUS (Cont'd)

I now rededicate this temple of yours in Jerusalem to the mighty Greek G-d Zeus and I order my brave soldiers to destroy all your Holy Scriptures that you call the *Torah* and bring to me all the gold and silver which I will have melted down and become idols! I shall take your golden altar, the lamp stand you use for light, and all its utensils. So shall it be!

SOLDIER

Do not forget their bread of the Presence,
their cups of drink offerings, sire...

SOLDIER 2

...And the bowls, the golden censers, the
curtain, the crowns and gold decoration of
the front of the temple, sire!

WE see Greek soldiers ravage temple, burning torahs and removing gold and silver artifacts. THEY take captive women and children and seize cattle. 16

CUT TO:

Throngs of forlorn Jews. 17

ANTIOCHUS

You must build altars and sacrifice to our
idols and not your innocuous G-d! So shall
it be! You may not celebrate your Sabbath
or feasts! So shall it be! Circumcision is
forbidden and all who do not obey me, the
King shall die. So shall it be!

CUT TO: 18

GENERAL**(Announces.)**

All you low-life Jews are now required to
present yourselves four times a year to pay
formal homage to Antiochus Epiphanes as
the senior G-d of the Seleucids! So shall it
be!

CUT TO: 19

RABBI**(To lots of disgruntled Jews.)**

How can he ask us to come see him four
times a year on the holy Sabbath? That is
sacrilegious.

CROWD

REVOLT, WE MUST REVOLT!

WE see the soldiers burn Torahs, take Jewish women and kill children. 20

**NEXT: Morning: Many Jewish people are gathered outside the temple,
21
arguing about the Greek
rule.**

OLD JEW 1

I find it disgusting that many of my fellow Jews, you Hellenists are obeying that pig Antiochus and his murdering Greeks. What happened to your covenant with *Elohim*?

RICH JEW 1

Antiochus is a benevolent man and he wishes us no harm. Let us make a covenant with the Gentiles round about us, for since we separated from them many evils have come upon us.

Some rich Jews smile.

22

RICH JEW 2

(Leers.)

He promised me personally all the women and food I want, and I can't wait for all those women, can you?

MATTATHIAS

He promised you pork, have you forgotten we are forbidden to eat pork, you fornicator of Greek women!

OLD JEW 2

And why are you so proud to have built them a gymnasium for their swine that wrestle in the nude...? What else are you going to do for them?

OLD JEW 3

...And because you defile and abandon the holy covenant and do away with circumcision, you shall be punished!

OLD JEW 1

May you rot in hell, for you have joined the Gentiles and sold yourself to do evil and fornicate with their women!

RICH JEW 3

What is wrong with beautiful Greek women? Antiochus himself told me I can have all the beautiful Greek women I want as long as I marry them and I said that I will marry as many as he gives me and you Hasidim should too. Wake up you old fool, we have no choice.

MATTATHIAS and his five sons attack the renegade Jews. There a furious battle, and MATTATHIAS and his five sons manage to escape. 23

CUT TO:

MATTATHIAS

24

Woe is me! Why was I born to see the ruin of my people, and the ruin of my beloved temple? We see our sanctuary and our beauty and glory laid waste, and the Gentiles have defiled them, creating idols from our gold and silver!

MATTATHIAS and his five sons tear their garments, put sackcloth on and mourn. 25

CUT TO:

The officers of the king in charge enforcing the apostasy come into the city of Modein to organize the sacrifices. Many Israelis join them, but MATTATHIAS and his sons gather in a group. 26

MESSENGER speaks to MATTATHIAS: 27

MESSENGER

(To Mattathias.)

You are a leader, an honorable man and great man, in this city supported by your sons and kinsmen. Come now, be the first to obey the king's command, as all the gentiles and men of Judah and those who are left in Jerusalem have done. Then you and your sons shall be numbered among the king's friends, and shall be enriched with silver and gold and many gifts, such as

Days

beautiful women; all the beautiful women
you want.

MATTATHIAS

Although all the Gentiles in the king's realm
obey him, so that each forsakes the religion
of his fathers and consents to the king's
orders, yet I and my sons and my kinsmen
will keep the covenant of our fathers. G-d,
Hashem forbids that we should forsake the
law of the commandments. We will not
obey the words of the king nor depart from
our religion in the slightest degree. And you
can keep all your beautiful women, we have
our own.

A rich Jew steps forth and offers a sacrifice on the altar. Outraged, 28
MATTATHIAS leaps forward and kills a Jew on the altar, and then kills the
messenger who was forcing them to sacrifice.

CUT TO:

MATTATHIAS runs through city shouting; “LET EVERYONE WHO IS 29
ZEALOUS FOR THE LAW AND WHO STANDS BY THE COVENANT FOLLOW
ME!” Many Jews, their wives, sons and daughters who sought to live according to
the righteous and religious customs, take their cattle and follow HIM to the desert.

Officers and soldiers hear that certain men flouted the king's orders and 30
search for them in the desert. Having caught up with them they prepare to attack.

OFFICER

Enough of this! Come out and obey the
king's command, and your lives will be
spared!

OLD JEW

We will not come out, nor will we obey the
king's command to profane the Sabbath!

The soldiers' attacks and the Jews do not retaliate nor block their hiding place. 31

OLD JEW 2

Let us die without reproach; heaven and
earth are our witnesses that they destroy us
unjustly.

Days

The officers and soldiers attack them on the Sabbath, and thousands die along with their wives and children and cattle. 32

CUT TO:

MATTATHIAS, his sons and friends hear of the slaughter and mourn. 33

SIMON

If we do as our kinsmen have done, and do not fight against the Gentiles for our lives and traditions...

ELEAZAR

...They will soon destroy us...

JUDAH

...Let us fight anyone that attacks us on the Sabbath, so that we may not all die as our kinsmen died in hiding places.

The MACCABEES are joined by valiant Israelites, form an army and attack sinners and lawbreakers. The survivors flee to the Gentiles for safety. 34

MATTATHIAS, his sons and friends tear down pagan altars. They enforce circumcision for any uncircumcised boys whom they find. 35

CUT TO:

MATTATHIAS on his deathbed is dying. HE speaks to his five sons. 36

MATTATHIAS

Arrogance and scorn have grown strong; it is time of disaster and violent anger.

Therefore my sons, be zealous for the law and give your lives for the covenant of our fathers. Children! Be courageous and strong in keeping the law, and you shall

(Puts hand on Simeon.)

avenge the wrongs of your people. Here is your brother Simeon, who I know is a wise man; listen to him always and he will be a father to you.

SIMEON cries as he kisses MATTATHIAS. 37

MATTATHIAS (Cont'd)

And Judas Maccabeus, a warrior from his youth, shall be leader of your army and direct the war against the evil nations. John, who I call Gaddi, Simon who I call Thassi, Eleazar who I call Avaran, Jonathan who I call Apphus, follow Judas Maccabeus. Pay back the Gentiles what they deserve, and observe the precepts of the law. *Shma*

MATTATHIAS dies.

38

yisroel adonoi elohaynu...

CUT TO:

JUDAH, his brothers join forces and many Jewish Pharisees revolt against the 38Greek army and win.

THEY rededicate the Temple and as they try to restore it, GADDI discovers 39 there is very little oil that has not been defiled by the Greeks. ALL his brothers are dismayed.

GADDI

Those heathens have left little if no oil.

THASSI

Alas, it has been decreed that the menorah was to burn every night.

ARARI

Do not despair brother Ararai, we must light it, even though there is but enough oil for perhaps one day.

ALL gather around as JUDAH lights menorah, and the chant.

40

CUT TO:

THEY appear the following day and the menorah is still burning. ALL are 41 amazed and beam saying “*Boruch Hashem, praise be G-d.*” This happens for eight days.

SIMEON

We thought the oil would last for one day, and *Hashem*, my beloved G-d has made it last for eight days, the festival of lights.

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ALL

Boruch Hashem, praise be G-d for giving us Hanukkah!

The End.