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deSilva's "Day of Atonement: A Novel of the Maccabean Revolt" (Book Review)

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returning to the nest. The essays along with the authors (e.g. P.J. O'Rourke, Stephen F. Hayes, Toby Young, Tucker Carlson and more) are varied in format. Warning a few vulgarities might be distasteful to more than a few readers. On the whole, the reader will experience a wide range of emotions while discovering valuable insights gleaned from the experience of others.

This title is recommended as part of parenting collections since it is a nice contrast to all of the manual style handbooks on fatherhood and/or parenting. Some of us, myself included, learn best via well written stories.

Day of Atonement: A Novel of the Maccabean Revolt,
by David A. deSilva. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2015. 320 pp. \$15.99.
ISBN: 9780825424717

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David deSilva's novel covers the Intertestamental period about which many Christians know very little. The main character is Jason, whose brother Honiah is High Priest. Jason prides himself on his place in the political regime of the day. The story follows the Jews throughout the Maccabean revolt, showing how they faced persecution if they refused to compromise their faith.

The author's vast knowledge of this time period is evident throughout the book's pages, making an often-neglected time period come to life for the reader. The characters are developed. While some of the characters are guilty of compromise, the book shows a faithful remnant in the characters of Honiah and Rabbi Eleazar as well as others.

Christians and Jews will both enjoy reading this fictionalized account of the Maccabean period. The book is timely. It shows the danger of becoming too wrapped up in the day's culture. The novel will raise questions in the minds of many Jews and Christians who read it. What happens when Christians and Jews support political candidates with ungodly values? Have Christians and Jews compromised their faith today to be accepted by the culture? Am I willing to risk persecution to remain faithful to God?

David A. deSilva teaches New Testament and Greek at Ashland Theological Seminary and is author of over twenty books, many focusing on the Apocrypha. This is his first venture in the fiction genre. The book is recommended for church libraries and for recreational reading in college and university libraries where religious fiction is an interest.