

2 Maccabees

12: 43-46

Selection C1

**A Reading from the Second Book of Maccabees****Judas, the ruler of Israel,**

**took up a collection among all his soldiers,  
amounting to two thousand silver drachmas,  
which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an  
expiatory sacrifice.**

**In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way,  
inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view;  
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,  
it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them  
in death.**

**But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward  
that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness,  
it was a holy and pious thought.**

**Thus he made atonement for the dead  
that they might be freed from this sin.**

**The Word of the Lord**