

The Intersection Between The Epicurean Movement And Hanukkah

Post by “Cassius” of December 17, 2025 at 7:32 AM

For those who are not aware of the relationship between Epicurean History and Hanukkah, we have a number of materials here on the forum, including a thread on Antiochus Epiphanes, who was the major player on the Greek/Epicurean side of the events leading up to the Maccabean revolt.

Our thread on [Antiochus Epiphanes](#) is here.

The page at the former Epicurus.net website which describes this relationship is available by Wayback machine [here](#).

The collection of materials prepared by our forum participant Bryan is here in our files section:

File

[Antiochus IV Epiphanes And Jerusalem](#)



A collection of information about what is known of the Epicurean background of Antiochus IV Epiphanes.



Cassius

December 17, 2025 at 7:30 AM

Post by “Cassius” of December 17, 2025 at 2:39 PM

Admin note: Comments made in the Blog, Gallery, and Calendar don't always get picked up in notifications or web searches, so we sometimes cross-post significant comments like this one into appropriate the forum section.

[Quote from Eikadistes in the Files Section](#)

These are great finds! Thank you, in particular for including the texts from Maimonides, which provides important, critical commentary. The Epicurean hagiographies (so to speak) really color-in the lines of ancient history, especially when it comes to critical observations with regards to culture and belief. Given the continued conflicts we observe today, which intersect with some of the propositions made herein, I appreciate that you present the topic with a variety of sources.

In attempting to re-create a general [biography](#) of Philódēmos' life, I tried to fill-in the gaps of his early life by cross-referencing his timeline against political conflict in his home. I found that the opinions of Gadarans must have been heavily colored by the fact that the Hasmonean dynasty kept trying to conquer them ... for decades. From my understanding, this activity became so threatening that the Nabateans, a nomadic, ancient Arab group helped repel the dynasty out of the area that corresponds with modern-day Jordan. Anyway, in this case, latter Epicureans (as so against neo-Platonists, and others) were already highly critical of the propositions made in ancient Hebrew texts. The organized violence waged by the Hasmonean dynasty against Greek-speaking towns in ancient Syria (as I imagine) must have reinforced that criticism, perhaps to the extent of reinforcing prejudice. (I mean to make no moral evaluation here. It's sensitive enough as it is).

I am particularly fascinated by the excerpt that describes Epiphanes entering the *Holy of Holies*. Most other mentions of it occur within sympathetic texts that glorify it as something other than a simple "stone statue of a long-bearded man, seated on a donkey, holding a document in his hand". *Shit* ... courthouses in Florida had similar statues in them a few years back. We're still depicting statues reflecting that original one in municipal buildings ([as of this year](#)).