

2—The King's Table

"The Book of Daniel"

Pastor Mike Cooke

1. The "Truth" of a Story

- A. Modern History—A fact based record of past events
- B. Historical Prophecy—Retelling the stories from the past to reframe and inspire the present
 - 1) Mason Locke Weems—The Cherry Tree Anecdote (1800)
 - 2) "This is a publication of the researches of Herodotus of Halicarnassus, in order that the actions of men may not be effaced by time, nor the great and wondrous deeds displayed both by Greeks and barbarians 1 deprived of renown; and among the rest, for what cause they waged war upon each other."—*Herodotus, Histories*

2. The Problem with the King's Table

- A. Jewish Law did not forbid wine, but it did forbid certain meat
 - 1) If it was an "unclean" animal
 - 2) If it was not properly bled
 - 3) If it was sacrificed to an idol
- B. The word "patbag" (portion) is a Persian loan word
- C. Tobit, Judith, Jubilees (not the bible) talk about not eating Gentile food

3. Sacrificial Food in the Maccabean Revolt (168 BC)

- A. 2 Maccabees 6:5-6

The altar was covered with abominable offerings that were forbidden by the laws. People could neither keep the sabbath, nor observe the festivals of their ancestors, nor so much as confess themselves to be Jews. On the monthly celebration of the king's birthday, the Jews were taken, under bitter constraint, to partake of the sacrifices. (NRSV)
- B. 2 Maccabees 5:27

But Judas Maccabeus, with about nine others, got away to the wilderness, and kept himself and his companions alive in the mountains as wild animals do; they continued to live on what grew wild, so that they might not share in the defilement. (NRSV)

4. When is it time to take a righteous stand?