



4 Maccabees (Guides to the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha)

By David deSilva

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Hellenistic Greek society offered many advantages to the Jew who was willing to relax Torah for the sake of easier relations with the dominant culture. 4 Maccabees was written to reassure Jewish readers that Torah was in fact the sole path to the perfection of the virtues honoured in Greek culture, as it freed the diligent devotee from slavery to the desire, emotion and the domination of pain and pleasure. In brief compass, deSilva provides a detailed look at the rhetorical and philosophical strategy of the author of 4 Maccabees, who redirects the hearers' desire for honour and advancement toward those commitments that will preserve his Jewish subculture from assimilation. This often neglected text becomes an engaging window into Hellenistic Judaism and into some of the concerns that were formative influences on the early church.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

David A. deSilva (Ph.D., Emory University) is Trustees' Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Greek at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio and an ordained elder in the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. He is the author of over twenty books, including *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods & Ministry Formation* (2004), *Seeing Things John's Way: The Rhetoric of the Book of Revelation* (2009), and *Introducing the Apocrypha* (2002) and a hundred journal articles and contributions to reference works and collections of essays.

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