

**A reading from the Second book of Maccabees**

12:43-46

*(He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.)*

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.