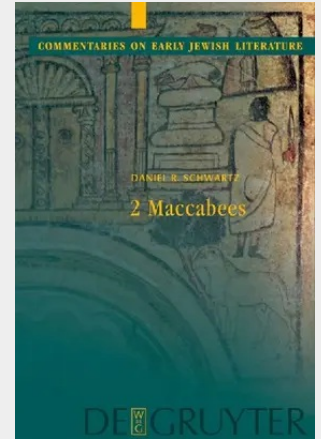


2 Maccabees

is a Jewish work composed during the 2nd century BCE and preserved by the Church. Written in Hellenistic Greek and told from a Jewish-Hellenistic perspective, narrates and interprets the ups and downs of events that took place in Jerusalem prior to and during the Maccabean revolt: institutionalized Hellenization and the foundation of Jerusalem as a polis; the persecution of Jews by Antiochus Epiphanes, accompanied by famous martyrdoms; and the rebellion against Seleucid rule by Judas Maccabaeus. is an important source both for the events it describes and for the values and interests of the Judaism of the Hellenistic diaspora that it reflects - which are often quite different from those represented by its competitor, .

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300,00 €

280,37 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9783110191189

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-3-11-019118-9

Verlag: De Gruyter

Erscheinungstermin: 20.10.2008

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: 1. Auflage 2008

Serie: Commentaries on Early Jewish Literature

Produktform: Gebunden

Gewicht: 1074 g

Seiten: 617

Format (B x H): 160 x 236 mm
