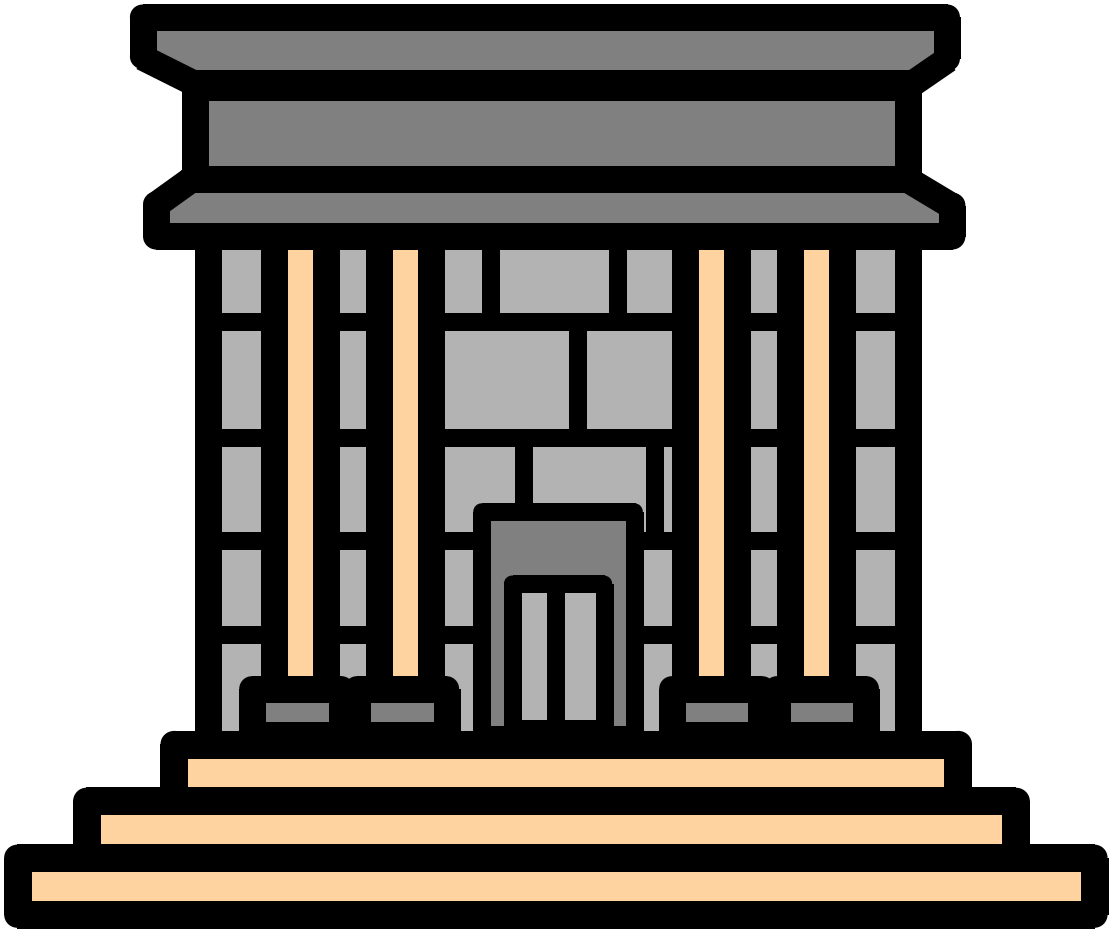

More than two thousand years ago the Jewish people lived in the land of Israel. There was a very special temple in Israel. The Jewish people sang and prayed to God there.

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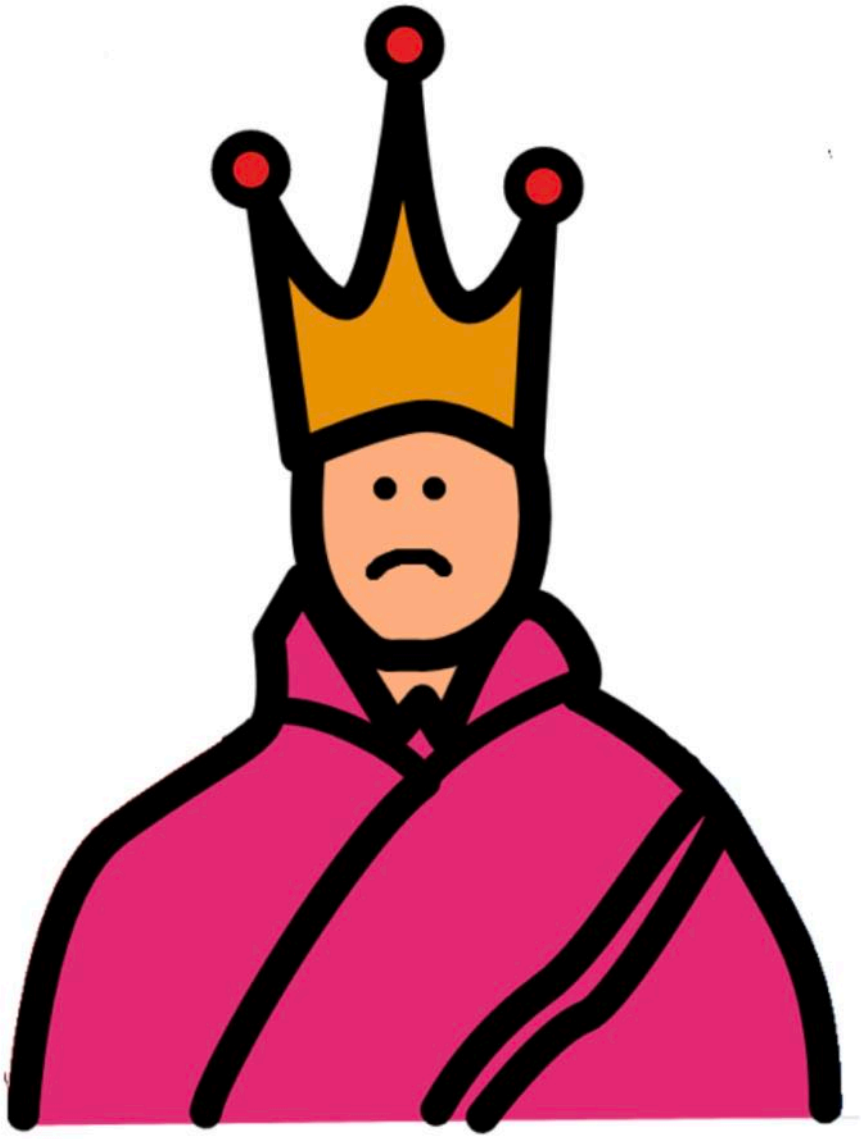

A Greek king took over Israel. He said the Jews could not pray in the Temple or study Torah anymore.

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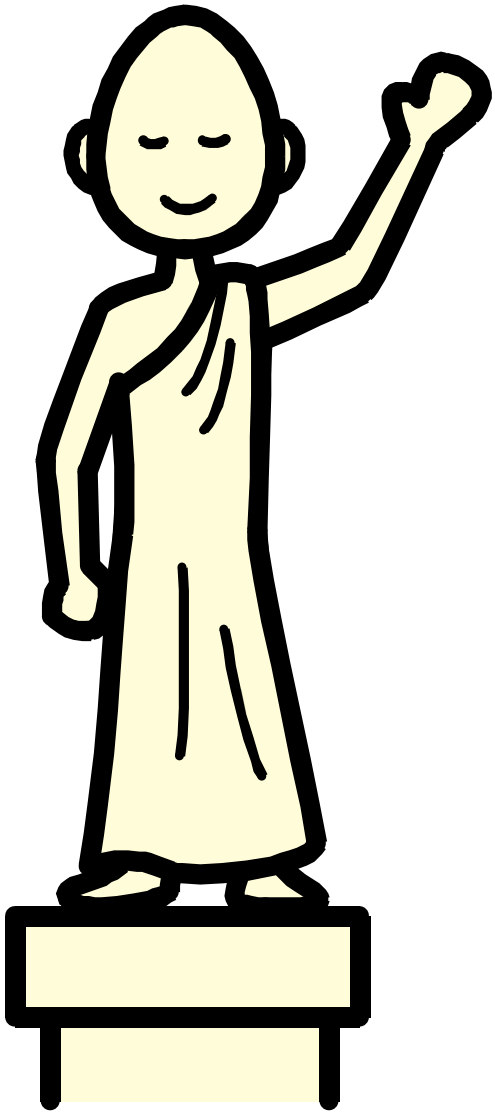

The Jewish people were told that they had to pray to Greek gods. Statues of the Greek gods were put in the Temple.

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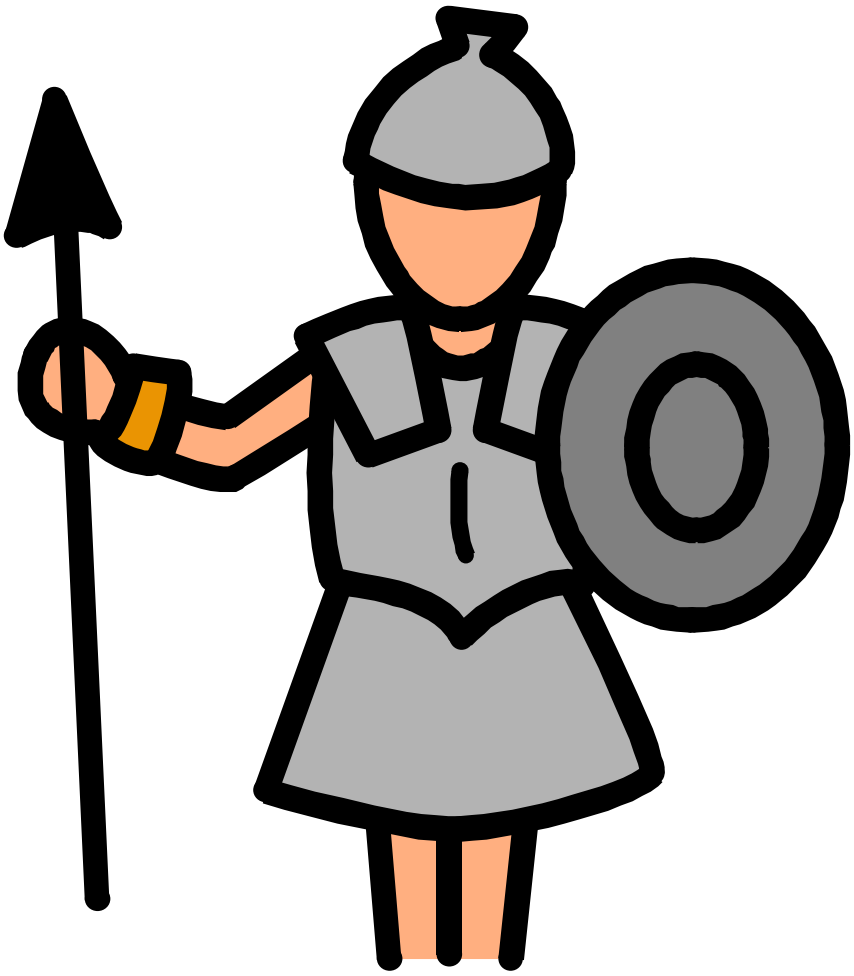

Some brave Jews refused to pray to Greek gods and fought against the Greek soldiers. They were called the Maccabees, and a man named Judah was their leader.

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Judah and the Maccabees fought hard and won the war against the Greeks! They made the Greek army leave Israel.

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The Jewish people could finally go back to their Temple again. They cleaned the Temple and threw out the statues of Greek gods.

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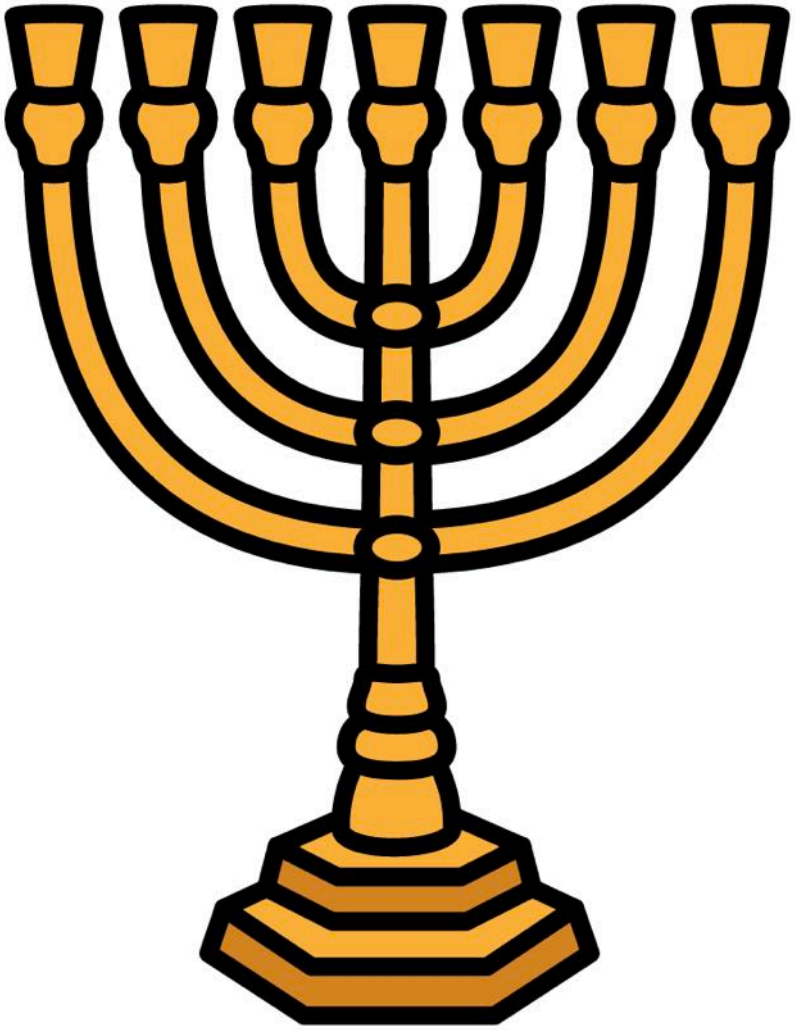

Before the Jewish people could pray in the Temple they had to light the lamps with special oil. Once the lamps were lit, they had to stay burning every day and every night.

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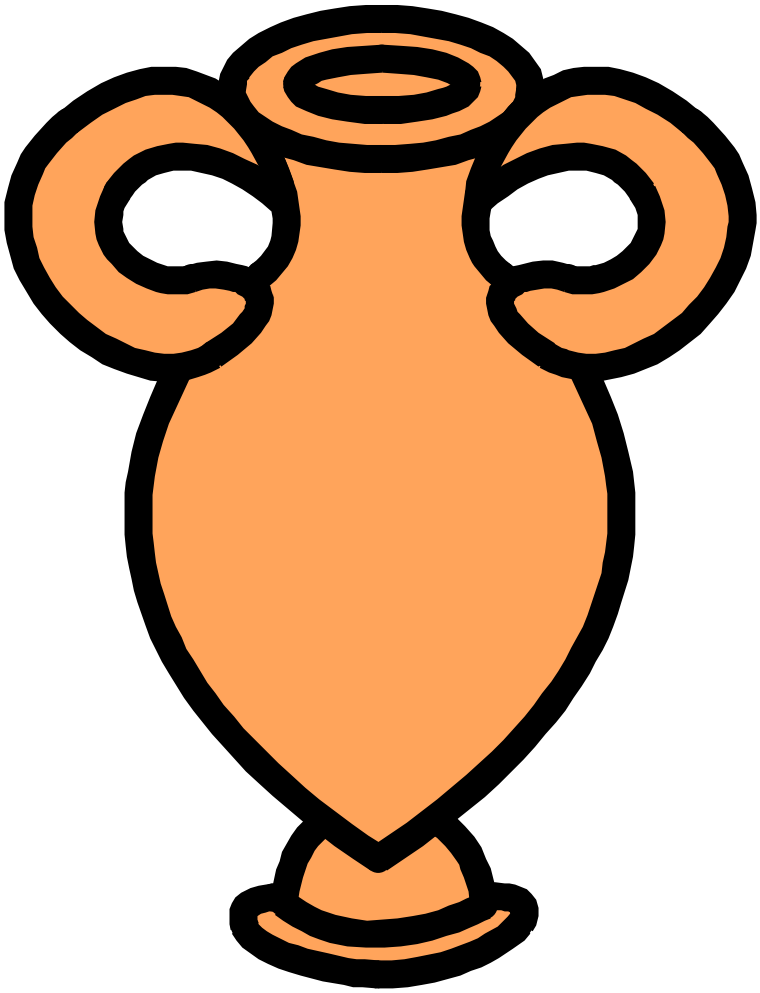

There was only one tiny jar of the special oil left in the Temple. That oil could keep the light burning for just one day.

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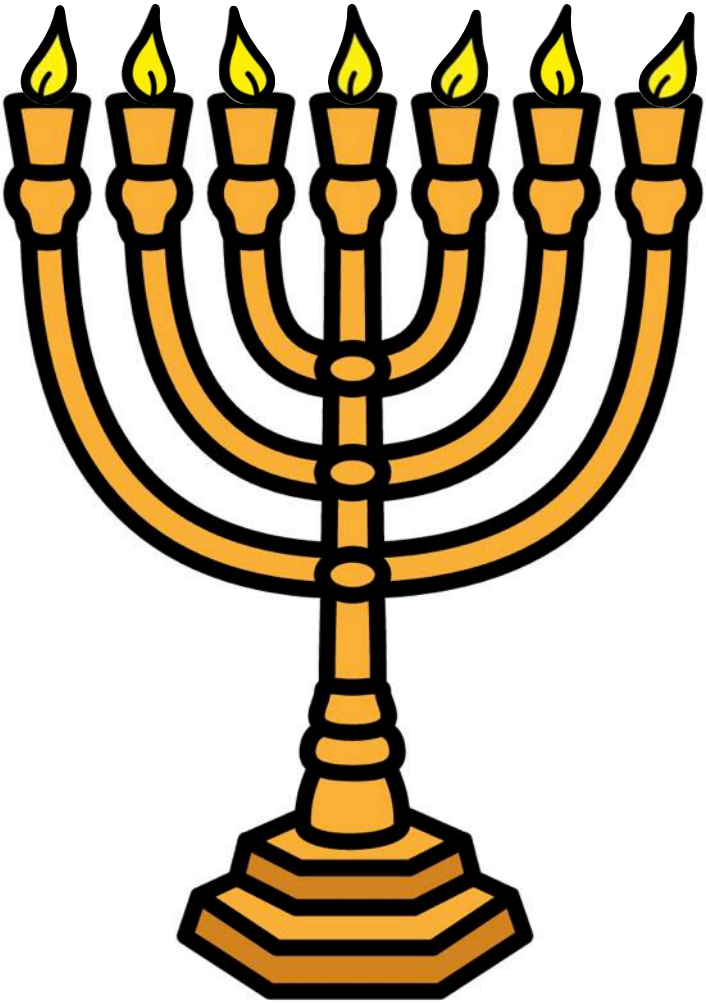

The tiny jar of special oil kept the lamp burning for eight days and eight nights. It was a miracle! That gave the Jews enough time to make new oil to keep the lamp burning.

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