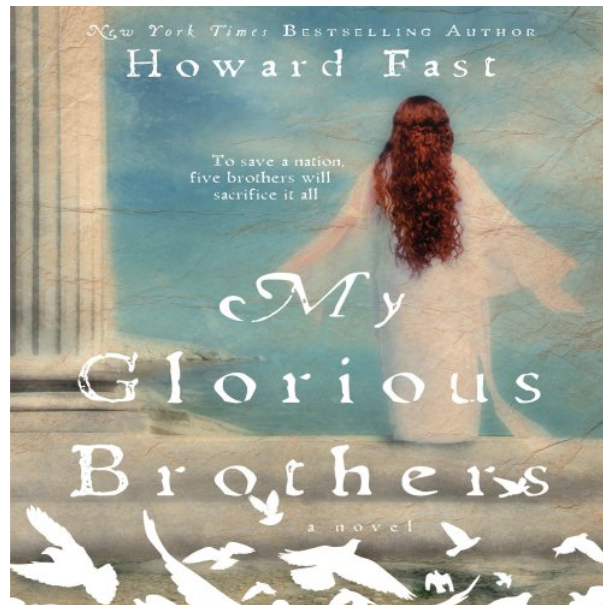
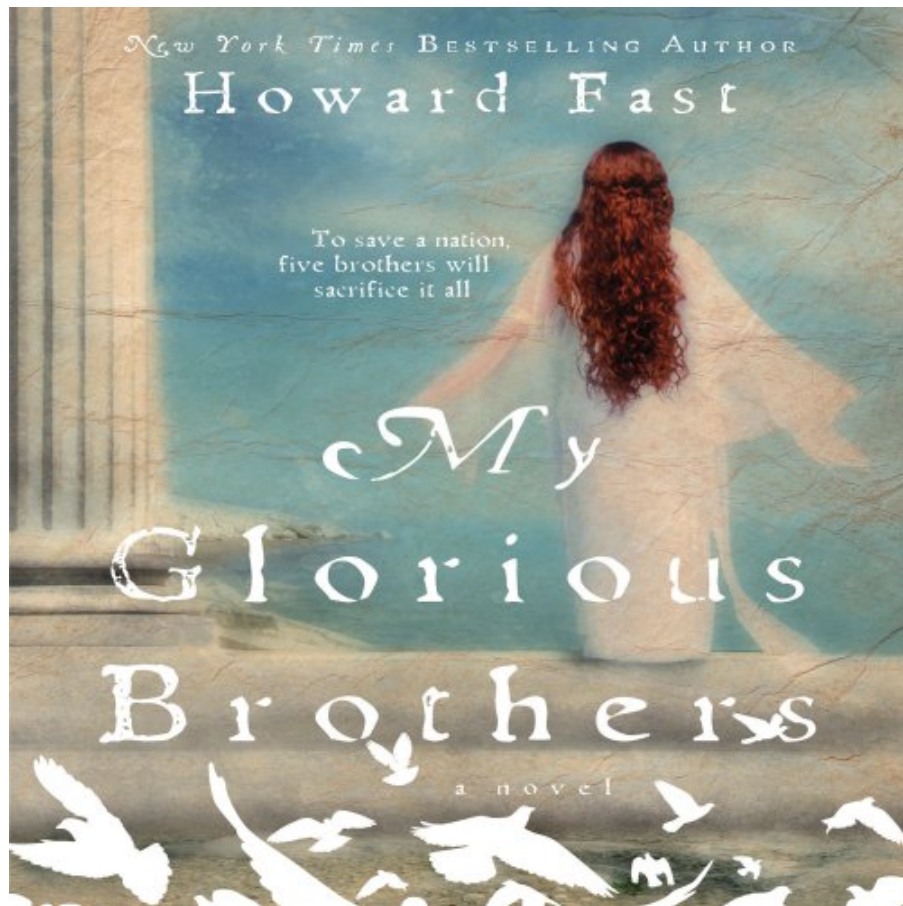


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The strength of five brothers will define a nation.

My Glorious Brothers is the epic story of perhaps the most breathtaking chapter in the history of Israel, a stirring tale of courage for those who like to find meaning for today's world in the great events of history.

After witnessing a ransacked and desecrated Jerusalem, Simon and his four brothers - soon to be known and revered as the Maccabees - rise to lead an earthshaking rebellion. Their tale has almost no parallel in human history. Theirs was the will, fire, and unbending spirit that inspired the timeless rite of Hanukkah, transforming a society of farmers and scholars into an unconquerable army that would wage the first modern fight for freedom and the first victory for religious freedom.

Master storyteller Howard Fast recounts the story of great battles, brutal atrocities, and undying love and loyalty. But it is also a sensitive and sure picture of a people and an age, in which the mood of a small but spirited segment of humanity two thousand years ago is recreated with gripping authenticity.

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- Original language: English
- Running time: 547 minutes

Most helpful customer reviews

31 of 32 people found the following review helpful.

One of my most Treasured books

By Russell Mollot

"My Glorious Brothers" was once given my by a friend, about 30 years ago. He told me it was among his favorite books. I soon found out why. Written in a beautiful, almost poetic style, Howard Fast (a great and prolific writer) presents the story of the Maccabees. These were the heroes of the amazing Jewish Revolt against the mightiest world power at that time -- the Syrian-Greek Empire. From the small village of Modin, a father and his five sons organize a rebellion to free ancient Israel from its cruel occupiers. It is a thrilling account, written from the perspective of Simon -- one of the five sons. Fighting perhaps the first "guerilla war" in human history, the Maccabees lead their nation of farmers and scholars against the greatest organized fighting force in the world. It is a thrilling and inspiring story of the few against the many; the weak against the mighty. Their triumphs and sorrows are told

in one of the most moving books I have ever read. The Holiday called Hanukah, celebrated by Jews the world over, commemorates this incredible story.

Over the last 30 years I somehow lost this wonderful book, and have spent years looking for another copy. I finally found a used copy on Amazon, and paid a small ransom for it, gladly. I am re-reading this story and will pass this book to my son. It is truly one of the most treasured possessions in my life.

14 of 15 people found the following review helpful.

The most fascinating story about the Maccabees

By Moshe Rosenblatt MD (mosrosen@isdn.net.il)

The Maccabees were a priestly family from the village of Modyin in the vicinity of Jerusalem, who led a 30-years rebellion war in the 2nd. century BC, against the Greek King Antiochus who wanted to impose pagans religious practices on the jews. The name Maccabee was a title of honour given to Judas, one of the 5 sons of Mattathias, the hero of the Jewish wars of independence (168-164 BC). Later, the name Maccabees was given to his whole family, specially to Mattathias, the old father, as well as to Judas brothers: John, Simon, Eleazar and Jonathan. The meaning of the word Maccabee in Hebrew, may be: 1) Hammer; 2) Hammerer or 3) Extinguisher. By defeating the greeks, they began to sanctify once again, the Great Temple of Jerusalem. They used a small candle that, astonishingly, burned for 8 days. This is why, every year, jews all over the world commemorate the holydays of Hanuka with the Hanukia - an 8 candle-sticks candelabrum. The story of the Maccabees and the Maccabean wars, was written by Howard Fast as if it was Simon's own Diary. Later, Simon, one of the Maccabees, turned to be a judge and a high priest in the Great Temple of Jerusalem. He was assassinated in 134 BC. The rebellion was described in this book in its most human and philosophical aspects. The standing of the few against the many. The love of the jewish people for its sacred land and religious practices. Their loyalty to the Word of God. Their might and heroism for principles they believed most, like freedom. The reader will have the impression that Howard Fast really lived in the same epoch. Many of the moral lessons of this epoch are very actual, nowadays.

18 of 22 people found the following review helpful.

A good book for Christians who want to understand Hebrews.

By Mike Whitworth

Many Christians would be better able to understand why the Hebrew nation is so fiercely nationalistic about their homeland if they read this book. This same material appears in the Douay Bible of the Roman Catholic church. Two books that appear in the Old Testament of this bible that are not in the Protestant Old Testament are 1 Machabees and 2 Machabees. It is essentially the same story as that told by Fast. When coupled with the history of Fast himself, the book becomes even more important. The Hebrew nation will persevere because it is God's chosen people, even if certain Hebrews lose the faith and later return.

I have recommended this book to many Messianic Jews as well as Christians who want to better understand the Hebrew nation.

See all 34 customer reviews...

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