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

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees   12:43-46

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.