Old Testament

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

Judas [the ruler of Israel] then 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