

“Hanukkah/Chanukah” “The Feast of Dedication”

For those of you who are new to Hebrew Roots. You need to understand that **Hanukkah isn't a modiem, an appointed time of Yah;** as far as what you see in Leviticus 23 and Numbers 28&29.

It is a **Hebrew holiday that does have biblical proportions to it,** just like Purim. However, **it's not commanded of the Yahweh that we keep this.**

Hanukkah means dedication; otherwise known as **the Feast of Dedication,** or even the **festival of lights.**

This occasion is **celebrated for eight days and it begins on** the 25th of Kislev or **the 9th biblical month** (Macedonians call Apelleus). Hanukkah falls between early December and late December on our Gregorian calendar. The month Kislev is of Babylonian origin, but the root of the word is Aramaic. The root word can mean foolish confidence in yourself, or it can mean Hope in Yahweh.

In 145bc on the 25th of Kislev the temple was desecrated by the Syrian emperor Antiochus Ephinous, and in 148bc on the 25th of Kislev the temple was re-dedicated to Yahweh by the Maccabeans. For 3 years to the day there was an omission of temple worship, rituals, and sacrifices!

Hanukkah is to celebrate the miracle of deliverance and supernatural provision by Yahweh for His people. About **145 years before Yeshua was born,** when the armies of **Alexander the Great** led by **Antiochus Ephinous,** latter to become the Syrian Emperor, plundered Israel and **defiled the Temple** in Jerusalem, which had been rebuilt by Nehemiah after Babylonian, Persian, and Assyrian captivity. **Antiochus set out to destroy Judaism by making its observance a capital offense.** The temple had been spiritually raped during this Syrian control. **Antiochus even had swine sacrificed in the temple to desecrate it.** On top of terrible persecution and hardship, **the Hebrew people were banned from keeping the Law of Yah (Torah). They were not allowed to do their sacrifices in the Temple, or keep the Appointed Times of Yahweh.**

A **Levitical(?Hebrew)** priest named **Mattathias** and his **5 sons**, (1 son named **Judas Maccabees** who became the leader after his dad's death) **led a revolt and despite overwhelming odds – led a successful rebellion, and cast out the invaders.** The Hebrew revolutionaries, known as **Maccabees** or **Hasmoneans**, regained control of the Temple in Jerusalem.

It's just rabbinic legend:

Then they prepared to **re-dedicate the Temple to God.** There was a serious problem, however: **a lack of oil. They needed special oil** – oil that could only be prepared by the priests, oil that took an entire week to prepare – to light the menorah ... the light that was supposed to burn constantly, **symbolizing the presence and power of the Holy Spirit of God dwelling with His people continually.**

They had enough consecrated oil for a single day, and that was all. They began the seven day- long process of preparing fresh oil. But in the meantime, **as an act of faith**, they went ahead **and lit the menorah ... to release the presence of God again in the Temple.**

The next day, to their amazement, the menorah was still burning. It burned the next day, and the next, and the next ... **it burned continuously, for eight full days** – when they finally had a fresh supply of consecrated oil!

The oil story sounds good, but I don't know if it is legitimate. I don't see in Maccabees, or Josephus. It's just rabbinic legend:

There is another reason why Hanukkah may last for eight days, and this reason could be closer to the truth. In Leviticus 8-9 **When Moses consecrated, dedicated, or ordained Aaron and his sons for the priesthood, and the Tabernacle including the altar was *dedicated* for service, there's an eight day period. Seven days were the days of consecration and dedication of the priests and the Tabernacle, and the eighth day was the first day of official service.**

Leviticus 8:11,33- dedication of the tabernacle, altar, priests, and all items in tabernacle for 7 days.

II Chronicles 7:9- here it is very clear that they celebrated Sukkot for 7 days, but they also dedicated the Altar for 7 days.

This was most likely on the minds of the Torah observant Maccabees and the reason for the eight days as the word 'Hanukkah' means ' *dedication* .' As such, Hanuka becomes for us an eight day period of *re-dedication* of ourselves to Messiah Yeshua, asking Him to cleanse us of our idols, that we might be fully consecrated and dedicated to Him!

Although to be thorough I must add that originally it appears as though there was 12 days of dedication of the altar from the leaders of Israel in **Numbers 7:10,11,84**

Also in I Kings 8:2,65 Solomon dedicates the temple to the Lord and keeps the feast of tabernacles (sukkot). I'm not sure if the 7 days was for the temple and then the other 7 days was for the feast.

In Commemoration of the Maccabean revolt and reclaiming of the temple, and rededication of the Altar; Hanukkah is celebrated for eight evenings. On the first night, one candle is lighted, on the second, two candles, and so on, until the last night, when eight candles are lighted.

The **middle candle** of the **hannakiah**, the one lit first, each and every night of Chanukah, is called the **shammash, the "servant candle,"** which is used to light all of the other candles ... **a symbol of the Messiah!**

This is how the menorah went from 7 to 9 candleholders or oil holders. **The hannakia is not a menorah.** The Hanukkiah has 9 places to hold candles to celebrate this occasion. Of course the original menorah in the holy of holies in the tabernacle had only 7. **Menorah actually means seven branched candlestick.** **The Menorah can be symbolic of the Spirits of Yahweh.**

Revelation 4:5 says there are seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of Yahweh.

Revelation 5:6 says the Lamb having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of Yahweh, sent out into all the earth.

The menorah can represent the ever present light of Gods Word, and His presence. The area of the tabernacle that the menorah was kept in was very dark, and only the light the menorah put out was visible. This spiritually can mean that **you cannot see your true self without the light of Yeshua.** Yeshua is the light of the world, and if you recognize Him in your heart and life, He will allow you to stand in His light, thereby, allowing you to see your real self as a sinner; and then allow you to see yourself as God sees you, righteous; after having been washed in the blood of Yeshua.

We need the light of Gods Word to penetrate our hearts and minds.

Darkness covers the mind and heart of man. When the resurrected Messiah is allowed to enter the soul of man that darkness is driven out by the light. **1 Corinthians 4:4-6 & 2 Corinthians 4:4-6**

Yeshua Himself celebrated Hanukkah, the Feast of Dedication.

John 10:22-24 tells us that Yeshua went to Jerusalem for the Feast of Dedication: that's Chanukah! But we can also see, in these words of John, why it was crucial for Yeshua to celebrate Chanukah ...

In the Temple area, the people gathered around and **asked Yeshua if He was the Messiah.** What a moment! Look at what's happening:

John 8:12 & John 9:5 Yeshua, the Light of the World, has come to Jerusalem for the Festival of Lights, or the Feast of Dedication, or Hanukkah. And He is declaring to the people that He is the light of the world!

John 10:22-31 This is Hanukkah, the Feast of Dedication, The people want to know if He's the Messiah they're seeking.

Yeshua celebrated Hannuka! If it's good enough for my Messiah, then it's good enough for me!

Chanukah can be a picture of Yahwehs power and presence among His people.

Chanukah can be a time of celebration of victory over your enemies, and a celebration of the rededication of the temple to Yahweh, and a celebration of the victory of Yahwehs people over the enemy in the past.

Hannuka can be a time of rededicating oneself to God!

Judas Maccabees was the one they celebrated and remembered as “the Temple-Cleanser and illuminator” then how much more should they have seen this in Yeshua. He had come suddenly into His Temple, His Father’s house, as the Messiah and they failed to recognize Him. **He had cleansed the temple twice in His ministry, but they rejected such a cleansing.**

Maybe it’s the same temple cleansing recorded twice, but I think it’s two separate incidents. **Matthew 21:12-17 / John 2:13-17**

Yeshua was the Temple-cleanser, and the Temple-illuminator. We being His body, as His Temple, we are to be dedicated to Him. Hannuka is a time of rededicating oneself to Yahweh, as His temple. **I Corinthians 3:16,17; I Corinthians 6:19,20; Ephesians 2:19-22**

Read Macabees 1-4

Maccabees 1:41-64 & 4:36-59

Are we really dedicated to God?

Are we prepared to make a stand in keeping the commandments of God?

God wants us to be prepared, not so much with food, water, guns, ammo-although these things are good-

God wants us to be prepared with Faith, Trust, Obedience to His commandments, Zeal for His Law!

**Are we prepared to die for our faith in Yeshua, for our Trusting in God?
Are we prepared to die because we keep the commandments of God?
Are we prepared to be persecuted to death for our zeal for the law?**

Revelation 12:17- are we prepared for the devil to make war with us because we keep Gods commandments and hold fast to the testimony of Yeshua?

Revelation 14:12/ Revelation 12:11 Will you hold fast to the point of death?

Revelation 22:10-21 Be prepared

Hanukka is a time of dedicating our selves to the Lord, or rededicating our selves to Him. It's like New Yrs. Eve- a time to renew your vows and make new resolutions in your service to the Lord. Ask God for vision in your life. Ask Him to help you become who He wants you to be so you can do what He wants you to do.

Conclusion:

Maybe you've never made Yeshua the light of your life. Then you still walk in the darkness of your heart. Make Yeshua the Lord of your life, Dedicate yourself unto the Lord.

Maybe you've not been doing the will of the Father. Ask yourself, what have you done for the Lord lately?

Have you been a good witness to others, have you been winning souls to the Lord?

Have you been reading the WOG daily and obeying what you read?

Maybe your guilty of going through the motions of devotions, but your not really devoted to serving Yahweh.

Maybe you haven't been praying for yourself, or maybe you haven't been interceding for others as you know you should be.

Whatever you've been lacking in your service to Yahweh is between you and Him. I encourage you to rededicate your life to the Lord.