

Chanukah (חנוכה) "Feast of Dedication"

Torah ~ Num. 7:1-8:4 | Prophets ~ 1 Kgs. 7:40-50; Zech. 2:10-4:7 | New Covenant ~ Lk. 1:26-38; Jn. 8:12, 9:5, 10:22

The story of Hanukkah, also known as the "Festival of Lights" or the "Feast of Dedication", is found in *1 Maccabees 2-4*. It is an eight-day holiday remembering the rededication of the Holy Temple (2nd Temple) in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt, in the year 165 BC. It starts on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Biblical calendar, which may occur at any time from late November to late December in the Gregorian calendar.

The First Two Miracles of Hanukkah

1. The small Maccabee army defeated the mighty Greeks (*1 Maccabees 4:34-36*).
2. While preparing the Temple for rededication, they found a 1 day supply of oil to light the Menorah but it lasted 8 days.

The Hanukkah Menorah

The Hanukkah menorah is a picture of God's olive tree which He call's Israel. We are all a part of this tree by being grafted into the people of God when we accept Yeshua as our Messiah and Lord (*Romans 11:13-24*).

The middle candle in the Menorah is a picture of Yeshua, it called the Shamash (leader) candle. In both *John 8:12* and *John 9:5* Yeshua said "I am the light of the world".

The other branches on the Menorah are a picture of us, God's people, that Yeshua lights (*Matthew 5:14-16*).

The third Miracle of Hanukkah, the conception of Yeshua to a virgin. (Luke 1:26-38)

John the Baptist was six months older than Yeshua. John's father, Zacharias, was serving in the Temple during the month of Sivan or June (*1 Chronicles 24*) when the angel visited him (*Luke 1:5-25*). John's mother, Elizabeth, would have conceived shortly after Zacharias returned home (June) and Mary would have conceived six months later on Hanukkah. Therefore, John would have been born during Passover and Yeshua born during Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles).

John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt [Tabernacled] among us" NKJV

Celebrating the coming of Yeshua into this world on Hanukkah

In Biblical times, some people considered their date of birth to be the date of their conception, not the day that their mother actually gave birth to you. Since the day of conception was the day that you came into being, that was considered your date of birth. So it is very appropriate to celebrate the coming of Yeshua into this world (conception) during this season.

For more on celebrating the conception - www.voe.org/special-message-from-perry-stone/christmas-or-hanukkah-by-diane-stone

Yeshua celebrated Hanukkah

In *John 10:22-23*, Yeshua made the long journey (100 miles or 3 day walk) to Jerusalem to celebrate Hanukkah

The Wise Men celebrated Yeshua's birth on December 25th.

But something else happened during this time of year, the Star of Bethlehem. Through today's technology, Christian astronomers now have the ability to see what the sky looked like during the years around Yeshua's birth.

- * In September of the year 3BC, the constellation Virgo (Virgin) rose in the morning with the Sun about her chest and the new Moon at her feet. This is what John saw in *Revelation 12:1-2*. This was to announce the soon birth of Yeshua.
- * In June of the year 2BC, the planet's Jupiter (king planet) and Venus (mother planet) appeared to join together in the constellation of Leo the lion (Yeshua is the lion of Judah), forming the brightest star that had ever been seen.
- * After this, Jupiter leaves Venus and goes West toward Israel in order to lead the Wise Men to Yeshua in Bethlehem.
- * Jupiter continued its westward track until it stood still over top of Bethlehem (*Matthew 2:9*), on December 25th 2BC, which in that year was also during the feast of Hanukkah.
- * So the Wise Men brought gifts and celebrated Yeshua's birth on December 25th, fifteen months after His birth. This fits perfect with *Matthew 2:11* where it says that the Wise Men visited Yeshua as a young child (toddler) in a house. This would also explain why King Herod killed all the male children that was two years old and under (*Matthew 2:16*).

For more on the Star of Bethlehem - www.bethlehemstar.net & www.setterfield.org/startechical.html

Mattathias and his sons

1 Maccabees 2:1-8 Common English Bible

(1) In those days a priest from Joarib's family named Mattathias, the son of John and grandson of Simeon, moved from Jerusalem and settled in Modein. (2) He had five sons: John, who had the surname Gaddi; (3) Simon, called Thassi; (4) Judas, called Maccabeus; (5) Eleazar, called Avaran; and Jonathan, called Apphus. (6) Mattathias saw the offensive actions against God that were taking place in Judah and Jerusalem. (7) He said: "Horrible! Why was I born to see this—the ruin of my people, the ruin of the holy city? Why was I born to live there when it was given over to the enemy, and when the sanctuary was given over to strangers? (8) Her temple has become like a person stripped of honor.

Pagan worship refused

1 Maccabees 2:15-16 Common English Bible

(15) At that time, the king's officers were enforcing the decrees to give up Jewish practice. They came to the town of Modein to make its people offer pagan sacrifice. (16) Many from Israel came out to them, including Mattathias and his sons.

1 Maccabees 2:24-27 Common English Bible

(24) When Mattathias saw this action, he burned with zeal, and his spirit was stirred up. He gave way to his righteous anger, and he ran over and killed the man on the altar. (25) He also killed the king's officer who was overseeing the sacrifice at that time, and he tore down the altar. (26) He burned with zeal for the Law, just like Phinehas did against Zimri, Salu's son. (27) Then Mattathias shouted loudly in the town, "Everyone who is zealous for the Law and supports the covenant should come with me!"

Cleansing and dedication of the temple

1 Maccabees 4:36-38 Common English Bible

(36) At that time Judas and his brothers said, "Look, our enemies have been crushed. Let's go up to cleanse and rededicate the sanctuary." (37) All the army gathered together and went up to Mount Zion. (38) They found the sanctuary deserted, the altar treated with disrespect, and the gates burned. In the courts, bushes had sprung up like in an open field or on one of the mountains. They saw that the priests' chambers were in ruins as well.

1 Maccabees 4:43 Common English Bible

(43) They cleansed the sanctuary and took the polluted stones to a ritually unclean place.

1 Maccabees 4:49-52 Common English Bible

(49) They fashioned new holy equipment and brought the lampstand, the incense altar, and the table into the temple. (50) Then they offered incense on the altar and lit the lamps on the lampstand, which illuminated the temple. (51) They placed bread on the table and hung curtains. Finally, they completed all the work that they had started. (52) They rose early in the morning of the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, the month of Kislev. It was the year 148.

1 Maccabees 4:56 Common English Bible

(56) So they celebrated the rededication of the altar for eight days and joyfully made entirely burned offerings. They offered a sacrifice of deliverance and praise.

1 Maccabees 4:59 Common English Bible

(59) Then Judas, with his brothers and all the assembly of Israel, laid down a law that every year at that season the dedication of the altar should be observed with joy and happiness for eight days, beginning with the twenty-fifth day of Kislev.