

# Hanukkah

An excerpt from *Shemini Atzeret/Deuteronomy*

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For generations, the Feast Days of *Yom Teruah*, *Yom Kippur*, *Sukkot*, and *Shemini Atzeret* have lain dormant under many of the pagan Christian and Rabbinic customs and traditions adopted into the faith. At the end of the civil year in Christianity, there is Christmas. For Judaism, it is the celebration of Hanukkah, which occurs during the same season. The celebration of Hanukkah is best known for the one-day of recovered Temple oil that miraculously burned for eight days. How many realize that the oil story is a fable and has nothing to do with the Maccabees? The period between the historic Maccabean victory in the temple and the reported oil found in the Temple was 350 years. Reading through the historical books of the Maccabees 1 and 2 and also the writings of Josephus (70-100 CE), reports no reference to oil. The first mention of a miraculous flask of oil was for a tract that did not make it into the Mishnah. The story eventually came out in the Babylonian Talmud, Shabbath 21b5, which dates approximately 200 CE, 350 years *after* the Maccabean victory. The Rabbis inserted the fictitious story of oil out of their fear of the Romans at the time.

During the Roman occupation, Jewish rabbinic leaders decided to concoct a story of miraculous oil for fear that a backlash might incur if the Roman's heard the truth of how triumphant the Maccabean victory and restoration of the temple was. They feared the Roman's might see the Jews as a victorious people, so they falsified a story in hopes of providing a distraction. Thus the historical success of the Maccabean revolt faded into the background. The rabbis then removed the Feast of Dedication/Festival of Lights from the Feast of Tabernacles/*Sukkot* to link in with the fabricated oil story for credibility. Once combined, they published them together on a new date as one event (complete with liturgy), into the Talmud and called it *Hanukkah – the Feast of Dedication/Festival of Lights*.

Additionally, the rabbis crafted a false candelabrum to give honor to this imaginary fable and called it a Hanukiah. This rabbinic candelabrum is a nine-candle holder, where eight candles are in a line, and the ninth candle is out of place. The lighting of this Hanukiah also helped divert the truth. However, its roots originated from the Babylon Feast of Saturnalia celebrated December 17-23 on the old Julian calendar by the Romans at the time. Under the rabbinical law, which they said had supremacy over God's/*Elohim* law, it states that the lighting of the biblical menorah is forbidden during Hanukkah. Therefore, the actual menorah in the Holy Place in the Temple was snuffed out.

How could a fabricated myth rise to the forefront and be worshiped as truth? The truth could only be suppressed if man lost his fear of God/*Elohim*. For many, it seemed better to coexist with a falsehood than be accountable to the truth. The fact is, rabbinic

Hanukkah denies the power of God/*Elohim*. Against all the odds, God/*Elohim* gave the Maccabees this astonishing victory that regained the Temple.

Today, we have some important questions to ask ourselves: “*Is the Temple Mount in the hands of God’s/Elohim people today?*” “*What happened to the Temple?*” If we fear man more than God/*Elohim*, then man does not need a Temple Mount, and that is what Hanukkah does. It neutralizes man. The Maccabees believed so firmly in The Word of God/*Elohim* that they risked everything to gain the Temple back. They knew that if they walked in His truth, the victory would be His, as He would not deny Himself. Regrettably, the truth behind the Maccabees has been suppressed all these years, covered over by a myth that denies God/*Elohim*.

We are not saying not to light candles at this time but suggest God’s/*Elohim* people re-examine what they honor, uphold, and recognize as the truth concerning the accomplishment behind the Maccabee story of the Temple. Today the temple mount is in enemy hands. To suppress the truth and declare a fable, *as fact* is a heresy that denies God/*Elohim*. To deny Him would bring about weakness and annihilation – thus, no Temple Mount and no Temple. To remember those who gave their lives because of what they believed, fought, and died for brings glory to The Word of God/*Elohim*. This truth is the strength, redemption, and restoration of His people and is the truth behind what led the Maccabees to victory.

## The Maccabees

The Maccabees were a family of priests who stood against the Hellenistic oppression in their day. These priests stood in opposition to the indifference of the Jewish people and leaders who at the time had compromised their faith in God/*Elohim*. They had forsaken His Covenant, outlawed His word the Torah, His Sabbaths, and Feast Days, and made Jerusalem a Greek International City. Animal sacrifices were prohibited, and the Olympian idol of *Zeus* (Father of gods and men who rules the Olympians) placed on the altar in the Temple. In essence, the Hebrews had assimilated into the pagan Hellenized Greek culture around them. This issue was a recipe for the complete annihilation of Israel and the Jewish people and is still the central issue we face today. Israeli’s who accept the status quo of the nations around them will cause their own destruction. The Maccabees were not afraid to take a stand *for* the Covenant, the true Word of God/*Elohim*, the Torah, and *fight against assimilation even among their own people*.

God/*Elohim* has declared in His word that the land belongs to *Israel* and even though the Maccabees were small in numbers, they were strong and courageous; this preserved Israel. Their strategy was to stand on the *heavenly* principles written in The Word and take that legal position on the *earth*. That was the double-edged sword that crushed the enemy and regained control of the Temple mount. In thankfulness to God/*Elohim*, the Maccabees celebrated, which was more accurately a delayed celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles/Sukkot, by cleansing the Temple and re-*dedicating* it and their lives back to Him.

🌿 **Zechariah 9:13** “For I have bent Judah, My bow, fitted the bow with Ephraim, and raised up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and made you like the sword of a mighty man.”

🌿 **Ezekiel 34:17-23** “And as for you, O My flock, thus says the Lord GOD/*Adonai Elohim*: ‘Behold, I shall judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and goats. Is it too little for you to have eaten up the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the residue of your pasture - and to have drunk of the clear waters, that you must foul the residue with your feet? And as for My flock, they eat what you have trampled with your feet, and they drink what you have fouled with your feet. Therefore thus says the Lord GOD/*Adonai Elohim* to them: Behold, I Myself will judge between the fat and the lean sheep. Because you have pushed with side and shoulder, butted all the weak ones with your horns, and scattered them abroad, therefore I will save My flock, and they shall no longer be a prey; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them - My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd” (John 10:14; Romans 9:6).

Today the enemy surrounds Israel like wild beasts, roaring threats and insults against the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The real story of Hanukkah is not about the enemy we can see on the outside, but the enemy hidden within. The nations can only roar if God’s/*Elohim* people have forsaken Him in their hearts. When they forsake the Gospel, His Torah, the Covenant, His Sabbaths and God’s/*Elohim* personal, intimate Feast Days made especially for His Bride, they cut down the *Tree of Life*.

His people have to ask themselves: “*Do they have an idol called Zeus on the altar in their temple?*” “*Are we assimilating into the culture and lifestyle around us?*” Nothing wrong with lighting candles, but are fables and myths *the truth* we are to teach our children? What kind of generations are we fostering in these end times? Where are the Joshua generations? Where are the warriors of His Word today, as in the days of the Maccabees?

In these end times, will rabbinic Hanukkah prevail or will the priestly Maccabees rise once again and cleanse the land? During this season, may we purpose in cleanse the altar of our hearts and re-dedicate our temples – *the restoration of the Tabernacle of David*. Then the fear of God/*Elohim* will rise in His people and the land give glory to Him once again (Amos 9:11; Acts 15:16).

🌿 **Joshua 1:5-9** “No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe

to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD/Yahweh your God/Elohim is with you wherever you go.”

## Reference And Information:

Christmas, The Feast of Saturnalia, and Easter see studies: *Shoftim*/Deuteronomy; *Sukkot Day One*/Deuteronomy; *Passover*/Leviticus [www.sheepfoldgleanings.com](http://www.sheepfoldgleanings.com)

Rabbinic/Traditional celebrations versus Biblical Feast Days see studies: *Yom Teruah*/Deuteronomy; *Yom Kippur*/Deuteronomy; *Sukkot Day One*/Deuteronomy; *Shemini Atzeret*/Deuteronomy [www.sheepfoldgleanings.com](http://www.sheepfoldgleanings.com)

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