

CHANUKKAH (The Feast of Dedication)

NAMES-

- 1) “Chanukkah” literally means “dedication”. Hebrew word appears how many times in the Old Testament? Eight Times. Called Feast of Dedication in John 10:22 and is commemoration of the rededication of the Zerubbabel temple in 165 BC after its contamination three years earlier.
- 2) “Feast (or Festival) of Lights” comes from the Jewish Historian Josephus who called it this (Antiquities 12:235). It also comes from the legend contained in the Talmud (Shabbat 21) that they lit the one day supply of oil and it lasted 8 days.

PROPHETIC BACKGROUND

- 1) The Book of Daniel describes the rise of the man known as Antiochus Epiphanes (manifest god) who would be a type of the antichrist who would come later. Daniel 8:9-14.

PROPHETIC FULFILLMENT

- 1) 1 Maccabees is part of the books called the Apocrypha. These are considered non-canonical books by Protestantism and Judaism. However, they are considered authoritative by the Catholic and Orthodox churches. These books were written between the close of the OT book of Malachi (420 BC) and the writing of the NT (1st century AD).
- 2) 1 Maccabees 1:10-64 describes some of the reasons for the events that led up to the Maccabean Revolt.
- 3) This led up to the abomination of desolation where a statue was erected to
- 4) Jupiter and a pig was offered on the altar.

REDEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE

- 1) See 2 Maccabees 10:1-8 and 1 Maccabees 4:36-59
- 2) Rededication occurs in 165 BC.

JEWISH PRACTICES

- 1) Rabbis have 24 laws. Some of these are: no fasting, no eulogies, proclaim miracle of the oil, publicize the lights that are lit, 8 branched menorah is used, giving of gifts, eat potatoes fried in oil and of course the game known as *dreidel*.

MESSIANIC IMPLICATIONS

- 1) John 10:22-42 shows Jesus authenticating the observing of the feast.
- 2) John 8:12 and 9:5 both speak of Jesus as the light of the world.

SEE THE HISTORICAL REFERENCES IN THE BOOK OF MACCABEES BELOW (referenced in the message)

Causes of the Maccabean Revolt

^{KJA} **1 Maccabees 1:10** And there came out of them a wicked root Antiochus surnamed Epiphanes, son of Antiochus the king, who had been an hostage at Rome, and he reigned in the hundred and thirty and seventh year of the kingdom of the Greeks. ¹¹ In those days went there out of Israel wicked men, who persuaded many, saying, Let us go and make a covenant with the heathen that are round about us: for since we departed from them we have had much sorrow. ¹² So this device pleased them well. ¹³ Then certain of the people were so forward herein, that they went to the king, who gave them licence to do after the ordinances of the heathen: ¹⁴ Whereupon they built a place of exercise at Jerusalem according to the customs of the heathen: ¹⁵ And made themselves uncircumcised, and forsook the holy covenant, and joined themselves to the heathen, and were sold to do mischief.

⁴¹ Moreover king Antiochus wrote to his whole kingdom, that all should be one people, ⁴² And every one should leave his laws: so all the heathen agreed according to the commandment of the king. ⁴³ Yea, many also of the Israelites consented to his religion, and sacrificed unto idols, and profaned the sabbath. ⁴⁴ For the king had sent letters by messengers unto Jerusalem and the cities of Juda that they should follow the strange laws of the land, ⁴⁵ And forbid burnt offerings, and sacrifice, and drink offerings, in the temple; and that they should profane the sabbaths and festival days: ⁴⁶ And pollute the sanctuary and holy people: ⁴⁷ Set up altars, and groves, and chapels of idols, and sacrifice swine's flesh, and unclean beasts: ⁴⁸ That they should also leave their children uncircumcised, and make their souls abominable with all manner of uncleanness and profanation: ⁴⁹ To the end they might forget the law, and change all the ordinances. ⁵⁰ And whosoever would not do according to the commandment of the king, he said, he should die. ⁵¹ In the selfsame manner wrote he to his whole kingdom, and appointed overseers over all the people, commanding the cities of Juda to sacrifice, city by city. ⁵² Then many of the people were gathered unto them, to wit every one that forsook the law; and so they committed evils in the land; ⁵³ And drove the Israelites into secret places, even wheresoever they could flee for succour. ⁵⁴ Now the fifteenth day of the month Casleu, in the hundred forty and fifth year, they set up the abomination of desolation upon the altar, and builded idol altars throughout the cities of Juda on every side; ⁵⁵ And burnt incense at the doors of their houses, and in the streets. ⁵⁶ And when they had rent in pieces the books of the law which they found, they burnt them with fire. ⁵⁷ And whosoever was found with any the book of the testament, or if any committed to the law, the king's commandment was, that they should put him to death. ⁵⁸ Thus did they by their authority unto the Israelites every month, to as many as were found in the cities. ⁵⁹ Now the five and twentieth day of the month they did sacrifice upon the idol altar, which was upon the altar of God. ⁶⁰ At which time according to the commandment they put to death certain women, that had caused their children to be circumcised. ⁶¹ And they hanged the infants about their necks, and rifled their houses, and slew them that had circumcised them. ⁶² Howbeit many in Israel were fully resolved and confirmed in themselves not to eat any unclean thing. ⁶³ Wherefore the rather to die, that they might not be defiled with meats, and that they might not profane the holy covenant: so then they died. ⁶⁴ And there was very great wrath upon Israel.

Observation of the Feast

^{KJA} **2 Maccabees 10:1** Now Maccabeus and his company, the Lord guiding them, recovered the temple and the city: ² But the altars which the heathen had built in the open street, and also the chapels, they pulled down. ³ And having cleansed the temple they made another altar, and striking stones they took fire out of them, and offered a sacrifice after two years, and set forth incense, and lights, and shewbread. ⁴ When that was done, they fell flat down, and besought the Lord that they might come no more into such troubles; but if they sinned any more against him, that he himself would chasten them with mercy, and that they might not be delivered unto the blasphemous and barbarous nations. ⁵ Now upon the same day that the strangers profaned the temple, on the very same day it was cleansed again, even the five and twentieth day of the same month, which is Casleu. ⁶ And they kept the eight days with gladness, as in the feast of the tabernacles, remembering that not long afore they had held the feast of the tabernacles, when as they wandered in the mountains and dens like beasts. ⁷ Therefore they bare branches, and fair boughs, and palms also, and sang psalms unto him that had given them good success in cleansing his place. ⁸ They ordained also by a common statute and decree, That every year those days should be kept of the whole nation of the Jews. ⁹ And this was the end of Antiochus, called Epiphanes.

^{KJA} **1 Maccabees 4:36** *Then said Judas and his brethren, Behold, our enemies are discomfited: let us go up to cleanse and dedicate the sanctuary.* ³⁷ Upon this all the host assembled themselves together, and went up into mount Sion. ³⁸ And when they saw the sanctuary desolate, and the altar profaned, and the gates burned up, and shrubs growing in the courts as in a forest, or in one of the mountains, yea, and the priests' chambers pulled down; ³⁹ They rent their clothes, and made great lamentation, and cast ashes upon their heads, ⁴⁰ And fell down flat to the ground upon their faces, and blew an alarm with the trumpets, and cried toward heaven. ⁴¹ Then Judas appointed certain men to fight against those that were in the fortress, until he had cleansed the sanctuary. ⁴² So he chose priests of blameless conversation, such as had pleasure in the law: ⁴³ Who cleansed the sanctuary, and bare out the defiled stones into an unclean place. ⁴⁴ And when as they consulted what to do with the altar of burnt offerings, which was profaned; ⁴⁵ They thought it best to pull it down, lest it should be a reproach to them, because the heathen had defiled it: wherefore they pulled it down, ⁴⁶ And laid up the stones in the mountain of the temple in a convenient place, until there should come a prophet to shew what should be done with them. ⁴⁷ Then they took whole stones according to the law, and built a new altar according to the former; ⁴⁸ And made up the sanctuary, and the things that were within the temple, and hallowed the courts. ⁴⁹ They made also new holy vessels, and into the temple they brought the candlestick, and the altar of burnt offerings, and of incense, and the table. ⁵⁰ And upon the altar they burned incense, and the lamps that were upon the candlestick they lighted, that they might give light in the temple. ⁵¹ Furthermore they set the loaves upon the table, and spread out the veils, and finished all the works which they had begun to make. ⁵² *Now on the five and twentieth day of the ninth month, which is called the month Casleu, in the hundred forty and eighth year, they rose up betimes in the morning,* ⁵³ *And offered sacrifice according to the law upon the new altar of burnt offerings, which they had made.* ⁵⁴ *Look, at what time and what day the heathen had profaned it, even in that was it dedicated with songs, and citherns, and harps, and cymbals.* ⁵⁵ *Then all the people fell upon their faces, worshipping and praising the God of heaven, who had given them good success.* ⁵⁶ *And so they kept the dedication of the altar eight days and offered burnt offerings with gladness, and sacrificed the sacrifice of deliverance and praise.* ⁵⁷ They decked also the forefront of the temple with crowns of gold, and with shields; and the gates and the chambers they renewed, and hanged doors upon them. ⁵⁸ Thus was there very great gladness among the people, for that the reproach of the heathen was put away. ⁵⁹ *Moreover Judas and his brethren with the whole congregation of Israel ordained, that the days of the dedication of the altar should be kept in their season from year to year by the space of eight days, from the five and twentieth day of the month Casleu, with mirth and gladness.*