



## Hanukkah

Excerpt from *Shemini Atzeret - Deuteronomy*  
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For generations, God's/*Elohim* 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 recapturing of the temple and finding a one-day supply of Temple oil that miraculously burned for eight days. However, the period between the historic Maccabean victory in the temple and the reported oil found in the Temple was 350 years. How do we reconcile this gap in history? Reading through the historical books of the Maccabees 1 and 2 and also the writings of Josephus (70-100 CE), we find no mention or reference to oil in either account. The first indication of a miraculous flask of oil was for a tract that did not make it into the Mishnah (teachings of traditions). The story eventually came out in the Babylonian Talmud, Shabbath 21b5, which dates approximately 200 CE, 350 years *after* the Maccabean victory.

The Rabbis who lived under Roman occupation at that time created a fictitious story of oil out of 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. These traditional Jewish leaders wove an oil story into the victory then elevated its importance by having it portrayed as a *miracle*. They feared the Romans might see the Jews as a victorious people, so they falsified this story in hopes of providing a distraction. Thus the historical success of the Maccabean revolt against immorality faded into the background. The rabbis then used the Feast of Dedication/Festival of Lights from the Feast of Tabernacles/*Sukkot* and linked it into their fabricated oil story for credibility. Once combined, they were published 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 candelabrum, called a Hanukiah, to look like a menorah to give honor to this imaginary fable. This rabbinic candelabrum is a nine-candle holder, where eight candles are in a line, and the ninth candle is out of place. Focusing on the lighting of their Hanukiah also helped divert the truth. However, its roots originated from the Babylon Feast of Saturnalia, which the Romans celebrated during December 17-23 on the old Julian calendar. Under the rabbinical law, which they say has supremacy over

God's/*Elohim* law, it states that the lighting of the biblical menorah was forbidden during Hanukkah. Therefore, the actual menorah 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 “*Is the Temple Mount in the hands of God's/*Elohim* people today?*” “*What happened to the Temple?*” If you 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 the hands of the enemy. 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 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 found in their own brothers and leaders who at the time had compromised their faith in God/*Elohim*. The Maccabees were grieved to see their people had forsaken God's/*Elohim* Covenant, outlawed God's/*Elohim* word the Torah, God's/*Elohim* Sabbaths, and God's/*Elohim* 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. Israelis 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 more accurately was 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. His Gospel, the Torah, the Covenant, His Sabbaths and God’s/*Elohim* personal, intimate Feast Days are made especially for His Bride. When they forsake His appointed times and replace it with a false glittery tree or Hanukiah, they cut down the Tree of Life.

His people have to ask “*Do they have an idol called Zeus on the altar of their temple?*” “*Have we assimilated 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 and traditions of Christmas prevail or will the priestly Maccabees rise once again and cleanse the land? During this season, may we find purpose in cleansing 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 begin to heal and 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.”

*For more information and references on Christmas, the Feast of Saturnalia, and Easter see studies Shofitim/Deuteronomy, Sukkot Day One/Deuteronomy, Passover/Leviticus.*

*For more information and references on Rabbinic/Traditional celebrations versus Biblical Feast Days see studies Yom Teruah/Deuteronomy, Yom Kippur/Deuteronomy, Sukkot Day One/Deuteronomy, and Shemini Atzeret/Deuteronomy.*

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