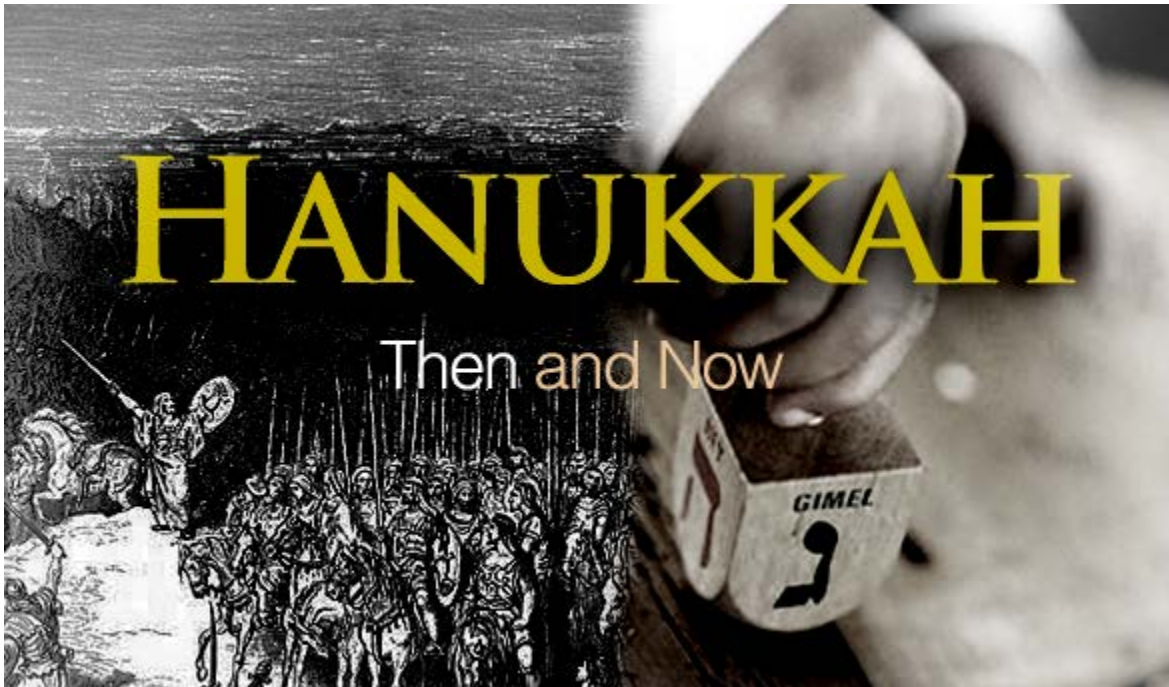


Hanukkah Then and Now



Hanukkah Then and Now A Live Teaching by Arthur Bailey

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Hanukkah Then and Now

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Today we will be talking about Hanukkah. We're going to be looking at Hanukkah then and now. In the informational message that I've sent out, there were certain questions that I am going to answer. These are the questions that people have asked me to answer. However, I was certainly going to touch on these in my teaching.

Here's the thing folks, there are things that I want to teach, there are things that YeHoVaH wants me to teach, and there are things that people need to know. A big part of this ministry is that we are a training center, we're not a church. We're not trying to be a congregation that gives people what people are accustomed to. We are not a church in a Messianic shell. My sole purpose here is to train, to teach, and to equip so that you can go forth and do the ministry.

There is nothing as bad for the kingdom as ill-equipped warriors. If we were to put this into the natural realm, imagine the atrocities that are taking place in Syria, in Gaza, and some other places. You have people throwing rocks at people that have machine guns and tanks. The analogy is that you've got saints, who are not equipped, throwing rocks at Satan who has machine guns, tanks, warships, airplanes, and jets. The responsibility of the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers is to equip; not to tickle people's ears. So, if you're looking for an ear tickling session, this is not the place. And we don't apologize for that.

Because we don't tickle people's ears, people maybe a little bit more reluctant to share, but here's what I'm trusting. I'm trusting the Father, just as I'm asking people, young people as I'm asking you, and sharing with you how important it is to keep yourselves, to wait. Yes, the pool is small. Yes, you may have to wait a little longer. But the end result is going to be a life that is a lot less painful, in agreement with someone who is headed truly in the same direction that you are going. That means that the pool is smaller. Because of what we teach, what we believe, and how it's presented, the pool of people who will gravitate to a ministry like this is going to be smaller than those on the broad way with deep pockets. But, here's what I'm trusting. Just as I'm asking you to put your faith in Him and to stand by the principles of the word, that

means you might have to wait a little bit longer, the pool is a little bit smaller, and the word has to get out. Do you hear what I'm saying?

All of you are here because you heard a message; you were on the broad way just like so many others. You heard a message, you detoured, you got off that path, and you got on a much narrower path. And with that, the resources are going to come from a lot less people, but I'm trusting that the Father is going to raise those people up. I'm expecting the wealth of the wicked, and it's going to come folks. I hate to say it like this, but it comes in a variety of ways. Whether it be through inheritances, whether it be through insurance policies, however it be. Father knows how to get the resources to you, but you've got to be prepared to do with those resources what needs to be done. Are you with me?

The questions that people wanted to know:

- *What is Hanukkah?*
- *Is Hanukkah biblical?*
- *Who should celebrate Hanukkah and why?*
- *How should Hanukkah be celebrated and how long?*
- *When should Hanukkah be celebrated?*

And these are questions that I intend to answer in this teaching. Now, before I get to the story of Hanukkah as we know it, I first want to answer those particular questions. So we're going to put the end at the beginning. And I feel that I need to do this so that I get the questions answered before I get into the story. Because if I get into the story without getting the questions answered, you still might not get the answers to the questions. So we're going to put the answers first, if that's alright with you all?

What is Hanukkah?

Hanukkah is the celebration of the rededication of the Second Temple.

Is Hanukkah biblical?

The Hanukkah story is found in the 1st and 2nd Books of Maccabees.

Those books were in the original 1611 King James Bible; however, they were subsequently removed. And, Hanukkah is spoken of in John 10:22 as the Feast of Dedications, in some translations, or the Festival of Lights.

Now, you're going to see when we begin to look at some dates why there's such a similarity between Hanukkah and Christmas in people's minds. I'll just let the cat out of the bag

right now. The date that Hanukkah is supposed to be celebrated is **Kislev 25th**, the **25th day of the month—the 9th month**. That’s on the **Hebrew calendar**. But because the Hebrew calendar and the Gregorian calendar are off, the month of Kislev typically falls in the month of December, every year. Now, people see Kislev 25th in the month of December, and confuse Kislev 25th with December 25th.

Today, none of us in this room operate solely on an astronomically and agriculturally corrected biblical Hebrew calendar. Now, what you’ll find is that on this particular calendar, it is based on YeHoVaH’s reckoning of time, but most people are on a Gregorian calendar. And because people are on a Gregorian calendar, they are often confused concerning the Feast dates. For example, you will hear, Passover is on the **14th day of the first month**. The moment you hear the first month, because you’re English speaking, you think it is January. Well, the 14th day of the first month is the month of Nisan or the month of the Aviv. Because, the Jewish calendar used the Babylonian name of Nisan, it removed the meaning of Aviv. Aviv is not the name of the month; Aviv is the condition of a crop. But because we’ve been removed from the agriculture, we’re not in tune with the times and seasons as established by YeHoVaH. As a result, we become dependent on a calendar, not on the sun and the moon. The first month of the year is the month that the barley is Aviv, or full in the ear. This is March or April on the Gregorian calendar.

So, when we begin to observe the days that YeHoVaH gave us, the way He ordained us to observe the days, we automatically are going to be observing two calendars. The Hebrew calendar and the Gregorian calendar, and figuring out how those days reconcile. This year, the 25th of Kislev will fall at sundown on December 7th¹. You see how that can be confusing? But you got to work at understanding YeHoVaH.

It really bothers me, these Christians. I heard this pastor talking, it was so far off, he said, *“They were sacrificing at the temple, and God told them exactly what to sacrifice and at what time. Some sacrifices required the cow, some sacrifices required the goat, and some sacrifices required the pig.”* That’s a Christian pastor! Man, I wanted to jump into that TV. God required them to **sacrifice a pig** on a certain festival?!! And it’s like, **“Okay, where is that found in the Bible?”** And then he said, “All that stuff got so confusing, aren’t we glad that we don’t have to

¹ For 2015, Hanukkah is from sundown December 7th to sundown December 14th.

follow those Jewish traditions?” Yep, and all those people following you are going to end up exactly where you are going, and it’s not going to be pretty. **I don’t determine where people go, but I can judge a tree by its fruit.**

So, Hanukkah is the Feast of Dedication and it’s mentioned specifically in John 10:22. So when you see that Yeshua was in Jerusalem for the Feast of Dedication, how do you know what that is? Because, it’s not found in any of the Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi. It is found in the Book of Maccabees—one of the books that were removed from the 1611 version of the King James Bible.

The same people who would argue that this is the unadulterated, infallible, completed word of God, fail to recognize that there was an infallible, unadulterated, completed word of God that contained the Maccabees. But somebody in that fallible way decided that the infallible word of God had some books that it didn’t need. And so, they took them out, and now we’ve got the true infallible Bible.

Now, I don’t mean to confuse you ma’am; I see you back there. I read faces, so let me correct what I just said. The Bible today is not the completed Bible. That’s really it in a nutshell. There are some books that were removed from the Bible, and because they were removed from the Bible, there are certain biblical passages that we will never be able to understand because the information has been removed from the Bible. So you won’t understand John 10:22, because when you try to research that Feast or Festival, it’s not in the Bible, it’s been removed.

How many of you know there’s some other stuff that’s in the Bible that when you try to research it, it’s not there, it’s been removed. For instance, Paul made some statements that when we try to find them in the Old Testament, they’re not there. Which leads one to think, did Paul make up some stuff? Did Paul misquote some stuff? Or was Paul speaking from his tradition? But this is not about Paul today; this is about Hanukkah. Oh, I got some stuff for you all, but it’s not today. So, let’s keep moving.

Who should celebrate Hanukkah and why?

Hanukkah is not commanded by YeHoVaH and does not contain any High Sabbaths, all believers can celebrate Hanukkah. And the question becomes why. Because, Hanukkah is a powerful story of dedication to faith in YeHoVaH and commemorates how YeHoVaH always saves, and always delivers those who call upon his name. Hanukkah is a story of deliverance. It’s

a story of faith. It's a story of how YeHoVaH saves his people in the midst of situations that seem un-savable. It's a story of how YeHoVaH brings people through situations that physically, visually, look totally impossible. And this is the story of Hanukkah and we'll get into some of that.

How should Hanukkah be celebrated and how long?

Hanukkah should be celebrated in the manner of Sukkot. It doesn't mean that we dwell in booths. But it is an eight day celebration. It is celebrated as a time in which you and I re-dedicate ourselves to the service of YeHoVaH. Back in December, last year, we taught on the dedications. We looked at all of the ways and the things that a person should dedicate. For instance, I'm dedicated to the service of YeHoVaH; my home is dedicated to the service of YeHoVaH. That means, what happens in my home has to be acceptable to Him. If it violates His word, then it's not allowed. My car is dedicated to the service of YeHoVaH, which means I'm not going to do things in my car that I wouldn't do in the temple. So, my children, I dedicated each one of them. But the time will come when they'll have to dedicate themselves. Because, we can dedicate people but **people have to dedicate themselves**. I dedicated my wife, but my wife has to also walk a life of dedication. This building, everything that we bring into the service of YeHoVaH is dedicated for his service.

So, things can be dedicated and we'll see that the instruments of the tabernacle were dedicated, as well as the instruments of the temple. We see that those who served in the tabernacle and those who served in the temple were dedicated. The clothes that they wore were dedicated to the service of YeHoVaH. The food, the offerings that people brought in, those offerings were dedicated to the service of YeHoVaH. Do you hear what I'm saying?

And so, when you begin to look at the dedication, and this is what causes the whole situation of Hanukkah to become what it was. It's because some people, who were not dedicated to the service of YeHoVaH, came and defiled the things that were dedicated. People can defile you, clothes can defile you, places can defile you, and things can defile you. This is why Paul wrote to the Corinthians. (The third letter is called 2 Corinthians because the actual first letter to the Corinthians is missing.) And so, he wrote in 2 Corinthians which is actually 3 Corinthians:

- *2 Corinthians 6:17 (King James Version), ¹⁷Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*

“Come out from among them and be ye separate and touch not the unclean things” says YeHoVaH. And you ask the average person, *“What are the unclean things?”* They can’t tell you. Then how do you know you’re not touching it? Now, that’s as New Testament as you can get. I’ve asked several pastors, ministers, and people what is Paul saying in, *“Touch not the unclean things.”* What’s the unclean thing? And they can’t tell me. Many Messianics can’t tell me. So how do you know you’re not touching the unclean things? Because here is the key folks, he says, *“Touch not the unclean things and I will be your Elohim and you will be my people.”* So, He being our Elohim, and we being His people are dependent on us understanding what the unclean thing is so we don’t touch it. It is only in the Old Testament that the unclean things are described. It’s that simple, but people like to complicate things, I try to keep it simple.

When should Hanukkah be celebrated?²

Hanukkah should be celebrated for eight days in the ninth month of Kislev, beginning on the 25th day and concluding eight days later. The 25th of Kislev is in the month of December. It is not December 25th. It’s actually sundown December 7th this year, to the 14th.

Now, what you’re going to find, those of you on Facebook and when you speak with other people, you’re going to find that some people have already started Hanukkah. And it’s because of the reckoning of time. People operate under different calendars. People operate under different phases of the moon; some deal with the dark moon or conjunction moon.

We deal with the sighted moon; the first sighting. The only way you know the moon is new is when you see it. If you can’t see it, how do you know whether it’s a new moon? But we won’t get into that because there are some people who will fight you tooth and nail over that philosophy with no scripture to support it. They say we don’t have scripture to support what we’re talking about. Even now, there are teachings out there debating when the day begins.

There are a lot of teachings out there concerning when you follow the moon, when the day begins, but what’s really critical for us is how you practice it. Because, having information and not knowing how to practice it, is where the rubber meets the road. Because you can’t practice information, if you don’t know how. And in the Bible, Father shows us how to practice what He has ordained, what He has commanded. And as we live our lifestyles according to His

² For 2015, Hanukkah is from sundown December 7th to sundown December 14th.

word, we by default practice His reckoning of time. That's a long story, I don't want to get into it now, but we will, not today.

Hanukkah today has become a holiday much like Christmas to many, with all of its traditions and miracles that never happened. Now, the thing about traditions is that they're going to creep in. It doesn't matter who you are. If you're a Baptist, you're going to develop Baptist traditions; if you're a Methodist, you're going to develop Methodist traditions; if you're Christian reformed, or Lutheran, or Pentecostal, you're going to develop traditions. If a child grows up in tradition, the child is going to see their faith. **It's not what they hear, it's what they see.** So when Yeshua says, *"Do what the Pharisees say, don't do what they do."* He was talking about not doing their practices. When the Pharisees teach what Moses taught, do that. But how do you know if the Pharisees are teaching what Moses taught, if you don't know what Moses taught?

How do you know that the preacher is teaching what the Bible teaches if you don't know what the Bible teaches? And so, you have got to read the Bible. And I say to people, read from Genesis to Revelation, just read it. *"Well, I don't understand."* You don't need to understand it, it'll come. Because the moment you read it, as you read it, the Holy Spirit is working things in your spirit. The word is bypassed in your head; it's going into your spirit because the word is spirit. And the Holy Spirit will bring what is in your spirit back to your remembrance when the time comes, but if it's not in there, there's nothing to bring back. You can't bring nothing from nothing, it leaves nothing. Do you hear what I'm saying? So you got to make the deposit for the Holy Spirit to have something to work with. Amen?

And so, all of these traditions come into play, and often times the traditions have symbols. Most traditions have symbols. What does the dove represent? As a Christian, when you saw a dove, what did you think of? The Holy Spirit! So, the Holy Spirit becomes associated with the dove. Now, down here in North Carolina, there are lots of doves. When you see a dove today, the brown ones not the white ones, do you think of the Holy Spirit? How many of you've ever thought when you saw a dove, *"Man, the presence of God is in this place."* Anybody, come on, don't be ashamed. Do you follow me? We associate things with symbols.

Traditions are also associated with Hanukkah. And when a person grows up in the tradition, they practice the tradition and by the very virtue of practice, it becomes the way you celebrate that particular holiday when actually it is a tradition.

A nine branch menorah (hanukkiyah) with Shamash (servant candle) represents the miracle that never happened. Now, you are going to see those all over the place, you're going to see them in Jewish synagogues; you're going to see them on their property. The *nine branch menorah (hanukkiyah)*, is nowhere found in the Bible. The *shamash (servant candle)* is the *branch* in the middle that holds the candle that lights the other candles.

Many of us, we practice the tradition; I know that when we came into the Messianic faith, we bought a nine branch menorah. On day one, we'd light the first candle; day two, you light the second candle; day three, you light the third candle. How many of you ever done that?

Where did the hanukkiyah come from? It's associated with the story, a tradition, and a miracle that never happened. And here are some of the images. When you see this, it means Hanukkah is in the air, do you see that? Now we've got a nine branch menorah, we broke two branches off, didn't we? Oh we just took two candles out, two light bulbs. I guess we couldn't break it; if we broke them off, we would destroy it.

Anyway, you say, "*Why are you picking on the hanukkiyah?*" Because the hanukkiyah represents something. **The hanukkiyah represents the miracle of oil.** The story goes that when they rededicated the temple, they looked for a vile of oil that had not been defiled. They took one vile of oil and YeHoVaH caused the oil to burn for eight days until more oil could be purified so that they could use it for the menorah. How many of you know that **it never happened? It is in none of the Bible.** As a matter of fact, this story came into life after the destruction of the last temple.

Now, let's look at what did happen. I've got evidence right here in the Bible that I'll show you. When we looked at the nine branches, these reinforce the miracle that the menorah burned for 8 days. And now the tradition is that you've got an eight candle menorah with the Shamash which is the ninth candle which is used to light the other ones, and this is in representation of that miracle that never happened.

Now, as a child, people are told these stories. Just like when we grew up, we grew up with Santa Clause. Maybe you all didn't. But I got an email the other day and I've been getting a

bunch of them, like this, “*If you write us and send us a few dollars, what we’ll do is we’ll send your child a letter from Santa.*” Now, why would I have you send my child a letter from Santa? But this is business folks; they’re tapping into the business.

Well, hanukkiyahs have become a business. Because if you look at the seven branch menorah, chances are, every time you see a seven branch menorah that you put on a table, there is not a whole lot of distinction between them. I’ve got three of them, they are typically going to look something like this, or it’s going to be seven simple branches, or it may have some decoration here or there.

But they get elaborate with these hanukkiyahs. There are hundreds of them, put that power point back up. And I’m telling you, there are hundreds. I just took a few stylish, beautiful looking hanukkiyahs representing something that never happened and people celebrating it as if it did.

What that does folks is that it takes away from the real story. If you insert a lie as the story, then the true story is never really told. So, you have people growing up believing a lie. I remember the first time I saw somebody say, “*How dare you say Santa Claus doesn’t exist.*” He doesn’t, it’s a figment of people’s imaginations folks. Santa Claus is not real and I hate to burst your bubble.

Dreydels, Gelt money, and then Hanukkah Harry (The Jewish Santa Claus). This is for those of you who can see that dreidel. The story behind the dreidel is that the children during the time of the Maccabees, wanted to study the Torah in the street but it was forbidden. So they would study the Torah in the streets until the watchmen, the officers, and the Greeks would come. Then they would hide the Torah scrolls and pull out the dreidels and act like they were playing the dreidels until the spies went away. Then they would pull the Torah scrolls back out. Now, it’s a nice story, isn’t it?

And then the Gelt money is actually chocolate. Now, as a child, we used to love these. You remember the chocolates that came in a little gold wrapper? I had no idea that it was associated with Hanukkah. All we knew was that it was available. But then I realized, I didn’t know this until I got older, I was surrounded by Jewish people in my community. There were prominent Jewish families, there was a Jewish synagogue. Most of my clothes came from a Jewish house. My mom worked for a Jewish woman who ran the clothing store that was a high

end clothing store in the city. I used to wonder about some of the food that would show up in our house during certain times of the year. I never made the connection, until I got older, that we were eating leftover Passover, and leftover Hanukkah, and leftovers from the parties.

Now, Hanukkah Harry is much like Santa Clause except he is Jewish. And instead of wearing the red suit, he wears the blue suit. In this photo you can see the stocking that Hanukkah Harry puts on the chimney. The wonderful thing about this story is, as I've heard some of my Jewish friends say, "*You guys got one day for Christmas, we got eight. And every day a gift is given.*" So, what you find here is a tradition that was established to defuse other traditions so that the children did not get envious. I mean, when you have Jewish children growing up with American children in an American neighborhood celebrating Christmas, with a Santa Claus, Christmas trees, jingle bells, Frosty the Snowman and all of this; the Jewish children look at that and say, "*How come we can't have that?*" It's natural for children to want what other people have.

As a child growing up in school, I was saying this to my family just yesterday, my parents couldn't afford the Converse All-Stars. So, we got the shoes that *slip and slide* while the other children had the ones with the *style on the side*. We got the aftermarket gym shoes, the kind that the soles fall out after about four months of wearing them. Anybody know what I'm talking about? The cheapies! And you look at the children who had the styles on the side and it's like, "*Wow, I wish I had some of those.*" You hear what I'm saying? You grow up in the neighborhood where you see other children and you get envious if they have stuff your children don't have. Especially when your children come home and say, "*Mama, how come we can't have that? And how come we can't do that?*"

We live in a neighborhood where parents buy their teenagers BMWs and Mercedes Benzs, and let them drive to high school. Trying to make us look "*po.*" And I remember taking my son out to get him a car and he was pretty specific. He didn't want something that you had to **roll the windows up**. We were looking at a nice car. "*I need electric windows.*" What!?! He refused the car. Now, let that have been my daddy! You'd be walking. But that's where we live today.

This is why YeHoVaH would say to His people, "*Listen, you drive out the people in the land. Don't let your sons fellowship and play with them. Don't let your daughters marry them.*"

Because what they're going to do is this. They're going to draw you into serving other gods" He says, "Don't worship Me like the heathens worship Me; don't do to Me like they do to their god" Do you hear what I'm saying? So, YeHoVaH wanted a people that were separated from the world. But yet, the people wanted to be like the world. Because the moment they saw the kingdoms of the other nations, they wanted a king just like they had. And when you look at the story of Hanukkah, which we're going to get to if I can ever get to it.

The story of Hanukkah is found in 1st Maccabees and 2nd Maccabees. And what I want to read to you is some excerpts from the books of Maccabees, can I do that?

- 1 Maccabees 1:1-9 (King James Version), ¹*And it happened, after that Alexander son of Philip, the Macedonian, who came out of the land of Chettiim, had smitten Darius king of the Persians and Medes, that he reigned in his stead, the first over Greece,* ²*And made many wars, and won many strong holds, and slew the kings of the earth,* ³*And went through to the ends of the earth, and took spoils of many nations, insomuch that the earth was quiet before him; whereupon he was exalted and his heart was lifted up.* ⁴*And he gathered a mighty strong host and ruled over countries, and nations, and kings, who became tributaries unto him.* ⁵*And after these things he fell sick, and perceived that he should die.* ⁶*Wherefore he called his servants, such as were honourable, and had been brought up with him from his youth, and parted his kingdom among them, while he was yet alive.* ⁷*So Alexander reigned twelve years, and then died.* ⁸*And his servants bare rule every one in his place.* ⁹*And after his death they all put crowns upon themselves; so did their sons after them many years: and evils were multiplied in the earth.*

Now, you can read about Darius, King of the Persians in the Chronicles. You can read about him in the books of Daniel, Nehemiah, and Ezra. And so, the first Book of Maccabees is picking up on that. I will jump down to verse 10,

- 1 Maccabees 1:10-15 (King James Version), 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.*

While the Israelites were separated by themselves, they would say some of the things our children would say today. *“The pickings are a lot slimmer; the people who believe like we believe, they are not here. The world has got all these men and all of these women and there are plenty of them to go around. But in our faith, there’s not a whole lot, there’s no real men, no real women for our sons and daughters, so let’s go back to the world.”* This is the mindset. So, here you have a people who felt that when they were in the world with the heathens, life was better.

I like to call this the YMCA at Jerusalem. Now, how many of you’ve ever been to a YMCA or YWCA? I mean if you’ve ever used it; you go in and you got people walking around in the buff. Right? Is the Y that I go to the only one that does that? I mean, wave for me if you’re familiar with it. It’s what they do, they walk around. Now, we should’ve had a clue when the group who came up with one of the most famous songs in American history, “YMCA,” was a bunch of homosexuals. That should’ve told us something, but for many people I don’t think they got it, that this was what was going on in that day. It is still going on today. There is no way in the world I would let my child go into the YMCA alone into the locker room. I’ve gone in there. There’s a lot of guys just sitting around watching other guys. And I think the same thing happens in women’s locker rooms. I’ve never been in there, so I can’t tell you whether it happens or not.

But this is what they said, *“We want a gymnasium.”* And how do I know what was going on? In the next verse. *“Whereupon they built a place of exercise at Jerusalem according to the customs of the heathen and made themselves uncircumcised. And forsook the Holy Covenant and joined themselves to the heathen, and were sold to do mischief.”* In order for a person to want to be uncircumcised ... You can be circumcised in secret; no one has to know you’re circumcised. But if you’re walking around with your private parts exposed, everybody’s going to know whether you’re circumcised or not. And circumcision was associated with the Hebrew People. So what you have is somebody saying, *“Yeah, we’re Jewish, we’re Hebrew but we don’t want the world to know it. We want to be like the heathens, we want to fit in. We want to blend in. We want to be like them.”*

- *1 Maccabees 1:16-25 (King James Version), ¹⁶Now when the kingdom was established before Antiochus, he thought to reign over Egypt that he might have the dominion of two realms. ¹⁷Wherefore he entered into Egypt with a great multitude, with chariots, and elephants, and horsemen, and a great navy, ¹⁸And made war against Ptolemee king of Egypt: but Ptolemee was afraid of him, and fled; and many were wounded to death. ¹⁹Thus they got the strong cities in the land of Egypt and he*

took the spoils thereof. ²⁰And after that Antiochus had smitten Egypt, he returned again in the hundred forty and third year, and went up against Israel and Jerusalem with a great multitude, ²¹And entered proudly into the sanctuary, and took away the golden altar, and the candlestick of light, and all the vessels thereof, ²²And the table of the shewbread, and the pouring vessels, and the vials. and the censers of gold, and the veil, and the crown, and the golden ornaments that were before the temple, all which he pulled off. ²³He took also the silver and the gold, and the precious vessels: also he took the hidden treasures which he found. ²⁴And when he had taken all away, he went into his own land, having made a great massacre, and spoken very proudly. ²⁵Therefore there was a great mourning in Israel, in every place where they were;

I want to jump down to verse 41, “*Moreover king Antiochus wrote to his whole kingdom, that all should be one people.*” At this time now, he wants to **consolidate his kingdom**. And the way you consolidate the kingdom is that you create a **one world government and a one world religion**, where everybody is worshipping and serving the same way.

Now understand this, **the church system as we know it is a part of that one world government, because the church has gotten in bed with politics**. And when you begin to look at Christmas and Easter and New Year, all of these things that are designed by the government, that are established as a society, and all the people celebrating it with much reverie and drunkenness as we stated earlier.

Capitol Hill is going home for Christmas. Colleges and institutions are going to close down for Christmas. The whole United States government and businesses shut down on Christmas day as Christians gather around Christmas trees and the world. So, **the Christian church has the same holidays as the Government, as the world, and celebrates the same festivals as the world**. How is it that the world can celebrate Jesus’ birthday without Jesus? And yet, you’ve got the Christmas trees, the ornaments, the lights, all the things that go with it, and the Christmas ham which is a representation of Antiochus.

- *1 Maccabees 1:41-48 (King James Version), ⁴¹Moreover king Antiochus wrote to his whole kingdom, that all should be one people, ⁴²And every one should leave his laws: so all the heathen agreed according to the commandment of the king. ⁴³Yea, many also of the Israelites consented to his religion, and sacrificed unto idols, and profaned the sabbath. ⁴⁴For the king had sent letters by messengers unto Jerusalem and the cities of Juda that they should follow the strange laws of the land, ⁴⁵And forbid burnt offerings, and sacrifice, and drink offerings, in the temple; and that they should profane the sabbaths and festival days: ⁴⁶And pollute the sanctuary and holy people: ⁴⁷Set up altars, and groves, and chapels of idols, and sacrifice swine's flesh,*

and unclean beasts: ⁴⁸That they should also leave their children uncircumcised, and make their souls abominable with all manner of uncleanness and profanation:

Now, you want to make YeHoVaH angry? You start worshipping idols and profaning the Sabbath. Now here's where the church is, because the church follows the laws of the land not the laws of YeHoVaH. They reject the laws of YeHoVaH, but uphold the laws of the land. Sound like some Antiochus to me.

Some people today are against circumcision, they say, "*That's heathenistic.*" Circumcision is an abomination in their minds. They also say, "*That is mutilating the flesh! That stuff's not required.*" And what's interesting is that you have Messianics saying stuff like this. I'm told that most midwives are against circumcision—I don't know that to be true, but I know some midwives who think that it's mutilation. The whole idea of going to a midwife is to avoid the system. You're getting away from the system, "*Well, what system are you promoting?*" Because if you are against circumcision, and you call it mutilation, and then you develop organizations that are anti-circumcision, then even midwives are anti-God. Yes, I called you out!

Verse 48 again, "*That they should also leave their children uncircumcised, and make their souls abominable with all manner of uncleanness and profanation: To the end they might forget the law.*" That's the whole point, "*Forget the law, get away from the law, and change all the ordinances*"

- *1 Maccabees 1:48-49 (King James Version), ⁴⁸That they should also leave their children uncircumcised, and make their souls abominable with all manner of uncleanness and profanation: ⁴⁹To the end they might forget the law, and change all the ordinances.*

Now all you have to do is sell this to the church, not as something that Antiochus Epiphany did, but something that Jesus did. See, it wasn't Antiochus who did away with the circumcision; it's not necessary, neither were the laws or the commandments. According to the Christian church, Jesus did that! **You see how the lie is repackaged?** In order for the **powers that be** to sell this lie, they had to **take away certain books of the Bible**, remove them, and give you the new infallible, unadulterated, completed word of God without those verses and those passages. Because, imagine a Christian reading in their Bible 1st Maccabees and reading 2nd Maccabees. Then maybe, they'll do the same thing that they're doing with rest of the Old Testament, ignore it too.

Folks, I'm not trying to be mean but sometimes you got to drive points home, and typically it's going to make some people upset. Good! Because I've found that when people get upset, they think about what they're upset at. Often times, they focus on the person who made them upset instead of what they're really upset about, and that's the truth that hurts. So,

- *1 Maccabees 1:49-50 (King James Version), ⁴⁹To the end they might forget the law, and change all the ordinances. ⁵⁰And whosoever would not do according to the commandment of the king, he said, he should die.*

He would fall from grace! See, this is what the church teaches. That if you go under the law, you have lost your salvation. You are damned! You are going bust hell wide open! You will surely die! You have fallen from grace! You see what can happen if you can take whole books out of the Bible, and give the Christian church a whole new religion that has absolutely nothing to do with the very root of which it was born out of.

- *1 Maccabees 1:54 (King James Version), ⁵⁴Now 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;*

If you've read the Old Testament, what you'll find is that after the reign of Solomon, Israel was split. It was divided into two tribes; some call it the two houses; the House of Israel, and the House of Judah. And, with that happening, you had **righteous kings** that followed after YeHoVaH's heart, and you had **wicked kings**.

Now what some of you all may not know, and maybe you do, is that Israel and especially Judah had female queens who ruled the land. If you don't know the history of the kings, and if you don't understand the names, you won't know this. What you also may not know is that the **kings and queens of Israel, had descendants sitting on the throne who were direct descendants of Ham.**

Now, you also may not know this, but what you're going to find is that throughout Bible history, the only son of Noah that is removed from the equation and doesn't come along until this point in history is the Greeks, the tribes of Japheth. However, Ham and Shem lived together and intermarried. Don't you find it odd that Abraham lived in Egypt and brought a wife from Egypt? Moses married a daughter of Ham. Yeshua sought sanctuary in Egypt. Egypt is one of the only

nations that is mentioned concerning the end times. Of course, it has another name, it was called Ham, but that's another teaching.

Now, the 15th day they decided to build altars. As I was about to say, these good kings would come to power and they would tear down the high places. If you've read the Old Testament in the books of Kings and Chronicles, you'll find that when a good king would come to power, they would read the Torah, have a revival, and then they would tear down the high places. They would tear down the idol temples. The unrighteous kings allowed temples of idols to be built. They had married foreign wives, which was against Torah commands, and the idol temples were built to please their wives. Solomon was notorious for that. It was his downfall because he married many foreign wives and developed covenants and agreements with pagan nations that YeHoVaH's people were never supposed to develop covenants with. And so now, here it is, in another place in history, idol temples are being set up and the people are worshipping idols again.

Now, this is prior to Yeshua, because a religious system has already been established. I think, the Maccabee part of the Israel story got lost because by the time of Yeshua, a whole new dynasty had come into power called the Herodian Dynasty. The Herodian Dynasty was the offshoot of Edom, which were the descendants of Esau. It's another story but you have to know your history, you see. And so, the Maccabees were of the Hasmonean Dynasty. In Yeshua's time, the Hasmoneans had been replaced by the Herodians. So now Yeshua comes on the scene and the Herodian's Herod the Great has now made an alliance with Rome. The Romans ran the Greeks out and established a whole different system. They also decided to build a temple called "*the temple of Herod.*"

Which by the way, you can see the tabernacle being dedicated, it's in the Bible. You can see the temple of Solomon being dedicated, it's in the Bible. You can see the temple of Zerubbabel being dedicated, it's in the Bible. But, you'll never see the temple of Herod being dedicated. I wonder why it's not in the Bible.

- *1 Maccabees 1:56-60 (King James Version), ⁵⁶And when they had rent in pieces the books of the law which they found, they burnt them with fire. ⁵⁷And 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. ⁵⁸Thus did they by their authority unto the Israelites every month, to as many as were found in the cities. ⁵⁹Now the five and twentieth day of the month they did sacrifice upon the*

idol altar, which was upon the altar of God. ⁶⁰At which time according to the commandment they put to death certain women, that had caused their children to be circumcised.

See, you had die hards, you had mothers who said, “*I am not violating the covenant of YeHoVaH. I’m going to circumcise my child.*” You had fathers who said, “*I am not going to bow down to those idols. I would rather face the death penalty than to sacrifice my children and my family, I would rather die.*”

- *I Maccabees 1:61-64 (King James Version), ⁶¹And they hanged the infants about their necks, and rifled their houses, and slew them that had circumcised them. ⁶²Howbeit many in Israel were fully resolved and confirmed in themselves not to eat any unclean thing. ⁶³Wherefore 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. ⁶⁴And there was very great wrath upon Israel.*

So they come in the house, they take the infant that has been circumcised, hang the child up and make it a public display and then kill the parent. It created fear, but that fear wasn’t great enough for some not to say, “***I am not going to bow my knee to this idol, I would rather die.***”

Chapter 4, “*Then said Judas and his brethren.*” Now, they’ve come in and they have ran out the Greeks. And they said, “*Now, we’d taken the land back but there’s one thing that is most important that we have to do. It’s time for a re-dedication.*”

- *I Maccabees 4:36-51 (King James Version), ³⁶Then said Judas and his brethren, Behold, our enemies are discomfited: let us go up to cleanse and dedicate the sanctuary. ³⁷Upon this all the host assembled themselves together, and went up into mount Sion. ³⁸And 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; ³⁹They rent their clothes, and made great lamentation, and cast ashes upon their heads, ⁴⁰And fell down flat to the ground upon their faces, and blew an alarm with the trumpets, and cried toward heaven. ⁴¹Then Judas appointed certain men to fight against those that were in the fortress, until he had cleansed the sanctuary. ⁴²So he chose priests of blameless conversation, such as had pleasure in the law: ⁴³Who cleansed the sanctuary, and bare out the defiled stones into an unclean place. ⁴⁴And when as they consulted what to do with the altar of burnt offerings, which was profaned; ⁴⁵They 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, ⁴⁶And 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. ⁴⁷Then they took whole stones according to the law, and built a new altar according to the former; ⁴⁸And made up the sanctuary, and the things that were*

within the temple, and hallowed the courts. ⁴⁹They 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. ⁵⁰And upon the altar they burned incense, and the lamps that were upon the candlestick they lighted, that they might give light in the temple. ⁵¹Furthermore they set the loaves upon the table, and spread out the veils, and finished all the works which they had begun to make.

Now we see the lighting of the lamps. “...*that they might give light in the temple. Furthermore they set the loaves upon the table, and spread out the veils, and finished all the works which they had begun to make.*” Now get this, **no miracle of oil, they lit the menorah and it burned.**

- *1 Maccabees 4:52-61 (King James Version), ⁵²Now 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, ⁵³And offered sacrifice according to the law upon the new altar of burnt offerings, which they had made. ⁵⁴Look, 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. ⁵⁵Then all the people fell upon their faces, worshipping and praising the God of heaven, who had given them good success. ⁵⁶And so they kept the dedication of the altar eight days and offered burnt offerings with gladness, and sacrificed the sacrifice of deliverance and praise. ⁵⁷They 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. ⁵⁸Thus was there very great gladness among the people, for that the reproach of the heathen was put away. ⁵⁹Moreover 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. ⁶⁰At that time also they builded up the mount Sion with high walls and strong towers round about, lest the Gentiles should come and tread it down as they had done before. ⁶¹And they set there a garrison to keep it, and fortified Bethsura to preserve it; that the people might have a defence against Idumea.*

And so, now they’re setting up so that the people can be protected and may defend themselves from Idumea. Have you ever heard the term “*Idumea*” before? Herod was an Idumean, and some of you all might get that. When the Hasmonean Dynasty was put away, the Herodian (Idumean, Edomite, and Esau) Dynasty reigned in its place. This is what happens when people lose the faith.

Now just to give you a recap: they celebrated for eight days and there was no miracle of oil.

- *2 Maccabees 10:1-4 (King James Version), ¹Now Maccabeus and his company, the Lord guiding them, recovered the temple and the city: ²But the altars which the heathen had built in the open street, and also the chapels, they pulled down. ³And 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. ⁴When 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.*

2nd Maccabees is just recapping of what happened in 1st Maccabees. The people said that when the Greeks came in, they were so godless and barbarous. *“We know that they came in by our own invitation. We know that it was a result of our idolatry, it was a result of our profaning the Sabbath, and the feast days. It was a result of us inviting the heathens to come in; it was a result of us wanting to be like them. Because we wanted to be like them, YeHoVaH allowed us to have what we wanted, and through that came the punishment.”* First, the Greeks were all nice, they were all sweet, and they talked about all the wonderful relationships we were going to have. And once the people bought into the lie, the Greeks turned on them.

This sounds like one of those sisters who decides, *“I’m going to marry this heathen but he says he’ll come to church with me. He quoted a few scriptures.”* Yeah, but he turned, didn’t he? And then he said, *“You knew what I was about before you got involved with me.”* *“But honey, you said you were going to go to church with me.”* *“Well I changed my mind.”*

Yeah right. That’s what the Greeks did. They came in and they made an alliance with the Israelites. The Israelites said, *“You know what, these people are treating us nice. We want to be like them. Let’s be like them.”* YeHoVaH said, *“No, you don’t want to be like them.”* And so it created a divide.

And this is the wonderful thing about Hanukkah for me. It’s that, in the midst of any generation of people, there will always be those who will sell out their faith. **But there will be that remnant who will not bow, who would rather die than to go after idols,** worship idolatry and heathenism, and do all the detestable things that YeHoVaH said don’t do.

And in conclusion: When they fell flat, they said, *“If we sin anymore, you deal with us. Please do not send a nation to do with us like that nation did. If we mess up, please deal with us and this should be our cry.”* This should be your cry, it should be my cry. If I get off track, *“Father, please deal with me. Don’t let me have to end up in a mangled car on the highway.*

*Don't let me have to layup in a hospital bed, because you told me to go left, but instead I went right. I knew it was your voice, but I was going my own way. **Don't let me have to learn the lesson the hard way like that. Get in my face, shout at me, and send people to me to tell me that I'm wrong.***"

And **YeHoVaH** said, *"That's what you are for."* You're not to be compromising with your friends. **If you believe that the Father has purposefully placed them in your life and you in their lives, then you can't be a good friend without telling people when they are wrong.** The kind of friend you need is somebody who will tell you, *"Nope, that's wrong! How do you think Father would feel behind that? How do you think the Father is going to look upon that?"* **Those are the kinds of people that you need in your life. They'll hold you accountable.** They can't make you do anything, but when they speak the words of truth, those words burn in your mind and they burn in your heart, and on your way to do what's wrong you hear those voices. And people need to hear your voice while they're on their way to do something wrong. If they continue on, it is because they're ignoring your warning. But hopefully, before they get to that place, the voice of reason will reign and they'll repent.

You're not a good friend if you don't tell them the truth; and neither are they a good friend to you if they will lie in your face.

- *2 Maccabees 10:5-8 (King James Version), ⁵Now 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. ⁶And 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. ⁷Therefore they bare branches, and fair boughs, and palms also, and sang psalms unto him that had given them good success in cleansing his place. ⁸They ordained also by a common statute and decree, That every year those days should be kept of the whole nation of the Jews.*

And so, what you see is that in the first year that Hanukkah was kept, they kept it in the manner of the Feast of Tabernacles. And the main reason why they kept it in the manner of Tabernacles is because they missed celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles. They missed it because they were hiding in the mountains and running from those who were trying to destroy them; or they were at war with the Greeks and could not celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. As soon as they were freed from their oppressors, they celebrated Hanukkah in the manner of the Feast of

Tabernacles because they weren't able to do so earlier. Now, that's the end of the story of the manner in which Hanukkah was celebrated.

The Book of Maccabees has a lot of information that is not so much related to Hanukkah, but it's always in the same vein of giving us historical insight as to what happened during those years that the church says God was silent. How many of you know, there's not been a time in history where YeHoVaH has been silent, not a time? There's a time when he says, "*Okay, you guys don't want to listen, fine.*" Just remember blessings and curses are in the same book, choose the blessings. Life and death are in the same book, choose life. That's your choice. It's your choice to make.

And so, the Feast of Hanukkah, the Feast of Dedication, is actually the celebration of the re-dedication of the second temple. It is celebrated for eight days, beginning on the 25th day of the 9th month, which coincides with our December, not the day but the month. The 25th day of Kislev this year³, begins sun down December 7th, which I believe is Monday and it goes to the 14th at sundown.

Amen.

³ For 2015, Hanukkah is from sundown December 7th to sundown December 14th.