

The Feast of the Dedication

Today we're going to be talking about a teaching or a feast that has become widely understood to be biblical. Although we have a couple of teachings on our website concerning Hanukkah, which you can check out, we're taking a **whole different approach** with today's teaching.

Hanukkah as we know it today has become this elaborate 8-day feast about a miracle that never happened. And what's interesting about Hanukkah is that all of the celebrations involving Hanukkah seem to perpetuate this idea of something that actually never happened.

When parents speak lies as truth to their children, they do their children a disservice. When I was a young lad, we were taught about Christmas. We were taught about Santa Claus and many of us believed in him. Now, as you've heard me say, on the side of the tracks that I lived on, we didn't have a Tooth Fairy. The Tooth Fairy only visited the other side of the tracks. We couldn't afford the tooth fairy where we lived, but there were people who had business with the Tooth Fairy. He just never visited our house, or she or whatever that fairy is. However on Christmas, Santa Claus showed up and we didn't see him. As a matter of fact, we didn't want to see him because, according to the tradition, you couldn't see him, otherwise you wouldn't receive your gifts. You'd probably get a lump of coal. And then it was later that I found out that our parents were Santa Claus.

Now, today if you were to go into downtown Charlotte, or pretty much any city or any department store, there's a Santa Claus. It's amazing! You go to one department store there's a Santa Claus, you go to the next department store, there's a Santa Claus. It's like, "*How many Santa Clauses are there?*" To the young mind, Santa Claus is real.

When parents do this, they're certainly not helping their children because at some point that child grows up. And typically those children, even when they learn, have a tendency to turn around and teach their children the things that they know weren't factual. **It's especially dangerous when you associate non-truth with scripture, because now you're calling into**

question all of scripture. You tell people to eat the meat and spit out the bone. A child doesn't know how to do that. And it's unfortunate that the majority of the Christian communities are childish.

Even though respectable Jewish scholars know the so-called Hanukkah miracle is a hoax, they still tell the myth to the Jewish community as a miracle of YeHoVaH's about a cruise of oil that burned for eight days. Now, I've got books that were handed to me. I started to bring one today, but I don't want to lead people in any direction. They all say something like, "*Legend has it ...*" or "*The story has it ...*" or "*It has been passed on for generations that the story ...*" And then they go into the story, **without discrediting the story.** By the time you finish the story, the story is about something that actually happened because the disclaimer that "**this never happened**" is not included in the story. It's one thing to say legend has it, but then you need to clear it up, otherwise you're into myths.

Santa Claus is a myth. The cruise of oil is a myth and the hanukkiyah supports the myth. The nine-branch menorah, why are there nine branches? Supposedly to represent the eight days that the oil burned and that a different light was lit each day. Where did that stuff come from? Well, you're going to find out.

Here are some facts, and I want to get this out very quick. **The Feast of the Dedication, a.k.a. Hanukkah, is a man-made feast instituted by Judah Maccabeus in year 165 BCE.** The Feast of the Dedication, and you'll notice that throughout this PowerPoint teaching you're going to see the "*Feast of the Dedication*" because that is how it's read in the King James Bible. The Feast of the Dedication, a.k.a. Hanukkah, is not a feast required by YeHoVaH and it has no Sabbaths. ***The Feast of the Dedication, a.k.a. Hanukkah, is not to be treated as the feast of YeHoVaH.*** This is important. **It is not the feast of YeHoVaH. It is a man-made feast.**

I'm going to teach this and I'm going to teach it hard, and some people are going to say, "*So what?*" And hey, at least you will know.

Offerings are not required for Hanukkah. Why, because it is a man-made feast. Hebrews, Israelites, Jews, Messianic believers nor anyone else is required by Scriptural Law to celebrate the Feast of the Dedication, a.k.a. Hanukkah.

Celebrating the Feast of the Dedication, a.k.a. Hanukkah, is purely voluntary. **To require anyone or command them to celebrate the Feast of the Dedication, a.k.a. Hanukkah, is in direct violation of Scriptural Law.** The Feast of the Dedication, a.k.a. Hanukkah, as we know it today, is never mentioned in the Maccabees or the New Testament Writings. It is called the Feast of the Dedication. It is not referred to as Hanukkah.

We find references to the Feast of the Dedication, a.k.a. Hanukkah, in John's Gospel.

- *John 10:22, King James Version (KJV) And it was at Jerusalem the Feast of the Dedication, and it was winter.*

This is the only place we'll find this phrase referring to Hanukkah.

- *John 10:23-24, King James Version (KJV) ²³ And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch. ²⁴ Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.*

Now let me just give you a little insight as to what's going on. Verse 22 lets us know that Yeshua was present at the Feast of Dedication. Now, I know that there are going to be a lot of wonderful teachings mixed with traditions, and we need to be able to separate the truth from tradition. Because if you don't, the tradition will become part of the truth, and that's where we can err.

Yeshua is there. They came and they wanted to know, "*Are you the one whom we have been looking for?*" Yeshua answered them, "*I told you.*" Up to this point, John Chapter 10, Yeshua has made it very clear through His teachings who He was, but yet the questions continue. As we noted on Thursday, John the Immerser, who had received direct revelation from the Almighty—and you've heard me say this several times—that even at the point of his greatest test, while he was sitting in Herod's prison, sent his disciples to ask Yeshua, "*Are you the one or should we look for another?*"

And so, Yeshua has made it very clear to the people who he was.

- *John 10:25-26, King James Version (KJV) ²⁵ Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. ²⁶ But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.*

“What you’ve seen me do is an indication of who I am, but you believed not.” So he told them and he showed them. You can’t get any better than that. **He told them and he showed them, and yet they did not believe him.**

Now I’m going to tell you something ladies and gentlemen, these individuals that Yeshua is dealing with are a lot like many of us. Because I can tell you and even demonstrate, which we’ve done, concerning the things that Yeshua talked about, and still people struggle with it. People struggle with the idea that we can do miracles. People struggle with the idea that we can lay hands on sick people and they recover. People struggle with the idea that we literally have the authority to cast out evil spirits. People struggle with the idea that we can do the things that Yeshua said we can do. You know how I know people struggle with them? Because they’re not doing them.

You’ll know a tree by its fruit. It doesn’t matter how many sermons you hear and how many healing services you attend. If you’re not doing what the Bible says you’re supposed to be doing and you’re saying you believe the Bible, then there’s a bit of hypocrisy going on in the midst of this conversation. We can teach our mouths to lie. We can say we believe something, but our actions tell us exactly who we are and what we believe.

And I’ll tell you ladies and gentlemen, I dare you to join me on Thursdays. I encourage you to be right here. We’re putting up tables. We’re going to start a class here to equip and train. And those of you, who are joining us online, don’t miss it.

Yeshua is talking to these individuals. He says, *“But ye believe me not.”* You know why you don’t believe ... *because you’re not of my sheep.*” Just pause and think on that. You see, the Bible already said that He came to His own, but they didn’t receive Him. He’s coming to His own right now. Those who receive Him are going to do what He said. I’m going to drive this home, and if it drives people out, then it’s only a matter of time before they leave anyway.

John 10:26 says, *“But ye believe me not, **because ye are not of my sheep**, as I said unto you.”* Yeshua is saying, *“I told you, you are not of mine, and as a matter of fact, I know exactly*

who you belong to.” At one point He says, “You are just like your daddy. Do you know who your daddy is? Your daddy is the devil.”

There are people who do the stuff that the devil does and claim to be children of God. What they’re saying and the fruit they are producing doesn’t line up. How are you going to know them? It’s by their fruit. It doesn’t matter what a person says. I mean it does matter, but if what they say and what they’re doing does not line up, guess what, there’s a fly in the ointment. There’s something wrong going on and we shouldn’t be afraid to call it out. Because if we’re going to follow Messiah, and let me tell you something, when you start calling stuff out, like we’re going to call stuff out, it’s going to get you killed. That’s why they got Yeshua.

The world is getting adamant about its worldliness, and it does not want anyone telling it about itself. I’ll tell you why some of these individuals say what they say. Initially, an athlete, or movie star, or prominent person says what they believe. Then they get a lot of pressure from all of the people who were offended. The pressure piles up and forces the celebrity to release an apology. You know what that’s all about? Money. *“Oh I’m sorry, I apologize. I didn’t mean to offend anybody.” “What do you mean? What you said was truth and the truth is going to hurt, and the truth is going to offend people. So why are you taking back something you’ve said and you believed?” “Because I’m going to lose my endorsements, because I won’t get any roles, because I’m going to be ostracized by the people in my profession and my business, because I want to eat. So I have to retract that statement even though I believe it.”*

And this is what’s going on and it’s going to continue to go on in our society until you start standing and stop compromising and befriending individuals that YeHoVaH at some point in history said needed to be put to death. If you’re hanging around someone that the scripture says, *“needed to be put to death”* then what is that saying about you? You think YeHoVaH has changed his mind?

You see, the whole gay community is trying to put “gaydom” in the Bible. As a matter of fact, there is research going on right now in the wonderful city that I came from. There are people with millions of dollars who are granting religious organizations so they can begin to incorporate evolution science into the Bible. They’re giving out large grants to these institutions,

and you know what's going to happen? You're going to see new versions of the Bible come out that have evolution in it. Mark my word. I give it about five years, ten years. You're going to see Bibles that will be propagating evolution science as part of creation. It's going to take people back 10, 15, 20, 30, 40, 50 thousand years, saying stuff like Adam was a **type** of people represented 20,000 years ago.

And you know what, with the way our society is right now and how our children are in our world right now, they are saying that our world is going to go a different way. The younger generations are going in a direction where it's going to be easier to sell this lie to the children than it is to sell it to the adults. *“So let's just bypass the adults. Let's get into the systems where the children are and we'll begin to incorporate these teachings into the children. And by the time the children become adults, they will not have a problem with evolution and the Bible as being one.”* This is going to happen.

- *John 10:27-28, (KJV) ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

That's a promise. You see ladies and gentlemen, we have got to get to a place where we don't fear death. You have to. Because to save your life, you are going to lose it. It doesn't mean that you're trying to save your life and you're going to die anyway. What I mean is ... I can imagine there are people right now, if they were brought into a room by I.S.I.S and forced to convert to Islam; there are some people who will do it to save their own lives.

See, we live comfortably and cozy in our nice western society here in the United States. People in other countries, third world countries and Middle Eastern countries, don't have that luxury. And we think that we'll always have that luxury when all of the signs are pointing to the fact that we won't. The day is coming ladies and gentlemen, where you are going to be tested, and you're going to be tested big time. And if you're not solid in your faith, if you're playing, if you're straddling the fence, if you're trying to hang out with the world while calling on *“Yahweh, YeHoVaH. I keep the Sabbath, I do all of these wonderful things, I don't eat pork and shell fish, and I honor the commandments.”* But the day is coming when it's going to be more than that required of you.

- *John 10:28-30, (KJV) ²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. ³⁰ I and my Father are one.*

And guess what, at this point, “*Then the Jews took up stones **again...***” **Again.** You know, Yeshua faced that stone pile several times in His life, He faced the cliff a couple of times.

- *John 10:32, (KJV) ³² Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?*

So now He’s about to set them up.

- *John 10:33, (KJV) ³³ The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.*

In other words, they’re admitting, “*You’ve done some good work. You did **good work** but that’s not why we want to kill you; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.*”

Do you know why churches split? Churches split, and people leave a congregation because they think that what is being taught is blasphemous. They have now just watered down the word. One of the most famous splits that I know of, and **most splits have to do with water baptisms**. Whether you’re sprinkled, dunked, immersed, poured, or splashed. A lot of it has to do with water baptism. It’s amazing. **Another one is music.**

So when we look at all of these things that individuals are dealing with, and things that are causing individuals to go in their own separate ways, is that somebody believes that you’ve taught something that wasn’t truth. So that is a means to now separate myself from you and consider you to be anathema.

This is why denominations don’t associate and affiliate themselves with other denominations because they believe the other denominations are going to hell. We, they say, are the only ones who have the truth, “*and if you’re not on this ship, this ark, you will be damned.*” And some of them are bold enough to just come out and say it. Others try to cloak it. But their

actions, the fact that they do not affiliate with other people outside of their group, should tell you that they don't necessarily believe or agree with individuals outside of their group.

As a minister, it's amazing when you often times notice, especially in churches that are Charismatic or Pentecostal, that all of the guest speakers are from out of town. Why do you think that is? That's a strategy. "*If you come from out of town, there's not a good chance you're going to steal my people.*" But if we fellowship with the folks down the road, what's to stop folks from leaving here and going down the road? Oh yeah, I'm letting the cat out of the bag. That's why they bring in people from out of town.

- *John 10:33-34, (KJV)* ³³ *The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.* ³⁴ *Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?*

See how he set them up? "*Is it not written in **your law?***" Now he's talking about the **Psalms**. He's not saying, "*Is it not written in **the Law.***" He's not saying that. He says, "*Is it not written in **your law?***" Now, get this folks, because we live in a day and society right now where there are Hebrew Roots Messianic individuals who want to declare that this whole book is the Torah. You see, the way it went at first, the five books of Moses was the Law, and then it evolved to the five books of Moses and the prophets. And then the five books of Moses, the prophets, and the writings. Those of you who go into some of these Messianic Jewish Congregations, they'll talk to you about the Ketuvim, the Nevi'im and the Torah. Oh, they are nice fancy words, but basically what they're saying is that all of this, the entire Tanakh is the Law. And then those who embrace the Brit Hadashah (New Testament), now all of it is the Law.

Yeshua is making this distinction when He taught His disciples on the Damascus Road. He opened up their eyes, their understanding, so that they could understand the scriptures. He taught them all of the things concerning Him that was spoken of by Moses, by the prophets, and the Psalms. He didn't confuse the Law with the Psalms.

When He says, "*Is it not written in **your law,***" He's actually speaking of the Psalms. "*If He called them gods...*" You have to understand that there's a lot of trickery going on behinds

the scenes. A lot of these teachings, that people are teaching people, are the traditions of men being taught as if they were the word of God.

The only way you can cause people to embrace traditions and man-made feasts is to somehow get God in the midst of it, who now is ordaining it. *“So, since Yeshua was up at the temple during the Feast of Dedication, He must’ve been celebrating Hanukkah, and thereby validating Hanukkah as a feast of YeHoVaH.”*

- *John 10:35, (KJV)³⁵ If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;*

Now, He does acknowledge scripture. The Psalms are scripture.

- *John 10:36, (KJV) ³⁶ Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?*

Now, the King James Bible put this in a nice way. But, get the attitude of Yeshua here, *“How can you fix your mouths to say that the One YeHoVaH sent, the Father sent, into the world is a blasphemer? How can you fix your mouths to say that? You’ve seen the works that I’ve done. I’m not denying the fact that I am who you think I am. You’ve seen the work. You know the work. Why you want to stone me? I tell you why you want to stone me because you’re just like your daddy. Your daddy is the devil, and you’re acting like the devil. So how dare you say of Him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, ‘Thou blasphemest?’ Who do you think you people are? Because I said I’m the Son of God?”*

- *John 10:37, (KJV) ³⁷ If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.*

Nicodemus has already said a few chapters earlier, *“We know.” “Who is this ‘we’ Nicodemus? Do you have other Pharisees in your pocket?”* No, Nicodemus is exposing to us that there have been conversations concerning Yeshua, and he’s bold enough to come to Yeshua, to the actual source. And by coming to the actual source, he’s saying, *“We know that you are sent from God, because no man can do the works you do if God hasn’t sent you.”* So Nicodemus is exposing the conversation that he’s had with his fellow Pharisees. And so, Yeshua says, *“Well, for what works are you’re trying to kill me?” “Not your works brother; because you’re a*

blasphemer.” “Really, how dare you? I know you know the works. Because nobody can do the works that I’m doing. They have not been done before!”

- *John 10:38-41, (KJV)* ³⁸ But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him. ³⁹ Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand, ⁴⁰ And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode. ⁴¹ And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true.

So what Yeshua just had, during the Feast of the Dedication, was a showdown with those who were supposed to be teaching Israel the truth. When Nicodemus came to Yeshua, and He says, “*Nicodemus, you must be born again.*” And they went through that entire dialogue, and Yeshua says, “*You are Israel’s teacher? You are the ones who are supposed to be teaching Israel, and you don’t know this stuff?*” When Yeshua’s talking about being born again, that’s not a new concept. Because He expected Nicodemus to know exactly what He was talking about, but Nicodemus didn’t have a clue. So if Nicodemus wasn’t teaching commands, what was he teaching? He was teaching the same things his fellow Pharisees were teaching. And that’s what Yeshua was talking about, traditions. **Nicodemus was teaching for commandments the traditions of men.**

Let’s get a little bit deeper in this. Many believed on Him there. ***Yeshua took this occasion to focus the people on the one whom they supposedly were looking for and away from the Feast of the Dedication.*** You say, how does he do this and why would he do it?

Many today who celebrate Christmas aren’t celebrating Jesus. They say they are, and they may have a **prayer concerning Jesus** for a moment, and **then it’s on to the gift giving.** They may have a service just to keep people focused that “Jesus is the Reason for the Season.” But let me tell you something ladies and gentlemen, Jesus is not the reason for the season. **The reason for the season is MONEY.** That’s the reason for the season.

It is money; it’s all about the dollar. Yeshua says, “*No man can serve two masters.*” He’s talking about a monetary system that has now become as much the focus as the holiday itself. **Jesus is not the reason.** There are people out there knocking each other over to get a 50-inch screen TV. Jesus is not the reason for Black Friday and Blue Monday or Cyber Monday. And

then now they have Blue Friday. In another year or two, folks are going to be doing Blue Friday. That's the Friday after Black Friday. They're already laying the foundation for this stuff. You got people sitting in lines, in snow, overnight, to be the first person to get in the store. Jesus is the reason for that?

Always beware of any holiday or holy day that you celebrate, and people who do not have your faith celebrate it as well. That's a simple flag that should just rise to the surface whenever you are celebrating a holy day that people, who don't believe what you believe, celebrate too. There's a problem.

You can understand Christmas, but how do you understand Hanukkah? You identify with the Jewish people, right? **When the Jews celebrate Hanukkah, is Jesus the reason?** Is He even in the mix? So, Yeshua comes in the mix on the feast. He says He is right there in the midst of them trying to get them to take the focus off the stuff that they're focusing on and put the focus on what they should be focusing on. And instead of focusing on what they should've been focusing on, they're picking up stones. He's got to leave in order to keep from being put to death. **And yet, He's the very one they claimed to be looking for.**

You see, on a lot of levels ladies and gentlemen, we've been sold things. And basically, let me just say this before you think I'm anti-Hanukkah, like some of you think I'm anti-music. I'm not anti-music. I'm just anti-mess. And there's a lot of mess in Messianics. As a matter of fact, the root word is "*mess*". So I just don't want the mess. Do you understand what I'm saying? I want the Messiah not the mess, and there's a lot of mess. And after awhile, the mess get so mixed in with the other stuff to where it's difficult to distinguish the mess from the other stuff.

Yeshua says, "*Let me show you all what you should be focusing on.*" As a matter of fact, if you remember, the disciples were so caught up in the, "*look at the beauty of this temple.*" Now, let me remind you that since Solomon, the presence and glory of YeHoVaH has not been in any temple since the destruction of the temple that Solomon built. YeHoVaH never asked the people to build the temple for Him. That was David's desire to build a temple. And yes, YeHoVaH said, "*Okay, if you desire to do that, you can't build it, but I'll let your son do it.*" And guess what, by

the time we **all** make it -- and notice I said **all** -- to New Jerusalem, you can search it throughout and there will not be a temple in the New Jerusalem.

The commentator appropriately refers to the celebration. And yes, there are commentators in the Bible, the King James Bible. *The commentator appropriately refers to the celebration as it had been known for over 165 years.* John 10:22, “*And it was at Jerusalem **the Feast of the Dedication**, and it was winter.*” That’s commentary.

For over 350 years Hanukkah was called “the Feast of the Dedication” or “the Festival of Lights.” Not Feast **of** Dedication, but Feast **of the** Dedication, or the Festival of Lights because it had not taken on the name Hanukkah.

- *About 250 years after the rededication of the 2nd temple, the first-century Jewish Historian Flavius Josephus wrote his account of the origins of the holiday. Josephus referred to the holiday as the Festival of Lights and not as Hanukkah.*

You’re going to see why in a moment. In the works of Josephus, the 7th chapter and in the 7th paragraph:

- *“Now Judas celebrated the festival of the restoration of the sacrifices of the temple for eight days and omitted no sort of pleasure thereon: but he feasted them upon very rich and splendid sacrifice; and he honored God and delighted them by hymns and psalms. Nay they were so very glad at the revival of their customs, when after a long time of intermission, they unexpectedly had regain the freedom of their worship. That they made a law...”*

That **they made a law. They made a law. They made a law.** We’re going to find out who “**they**” is. Often times, we hear they and them and not know who they or them are, but we’re going to find out who they and them are and **see if they have the authority to make a law.**

- *“That they made a law for their posterity that they should keep a festival, on account of the restoration of their temple worship for eight days. And from that time to this we celebrate this festival and call it Lights.”*

Much of what we know about Hanukkah today has come from traditions and writings found in the Talmud. The Talmud is a compilation of the Mishnah and Gemara. The Talmud was completed approximately 600 years after the events of the Maccabees. Now there are some

other writings that the Talmud looked to, but the earliest was 300 years after the event that took place in 1st and 2nd Maccabees.

In the Gemara (a commentary on the Mishnah) of the Babylonian Talmud, Hanukkah is mentioned in Tractate Shabbat. **Only three lines are devoted to the events of Hanukkah.** There's a story right there. Why are only three lines devoted to it when you have several chapters in 1st and 2nd Maccabees?

And by the way, the **Book of Maccabees was not included in the Jewish Canon.** The Jewish Canon is the compilation of writings that were deemed to be YeHoVaH's word. 1st and 2nd Maccabees never made it into the Jewish Canon, but it made it into the Christian Bible. It is considered apocryphal writings. Does it mean it didn't happen? No it doesn't mean that. **These events are historical events that actually happened.**

But when you begin to look at **canon**, it is the idea of "*a measurement.*" It is the measurement by which those who are examining all writings determine whether or not a particular writing was inspired by YeHoVaH. If a writing is deemed to not be inspired by the creator, that writing does not make it into the canon of scripture or the canon we call "*The Bible.*"

So there are many writings that never made it into the 1611 King James Bible. The 1611 has the Apocrypha. The New King James which is called "*The King James Bible*" doesn't. So the New King James Bible, as we know it today, is the **new** "*New King James*". The old King James is actually the New King James, and the 1611 is the original King James. So somewhere along the line, the old King James rejected the 1611 canon, and decided to rip out of that Bible that which had been deemed earlier inspired by YeHoVaH, and determined it to no longer be inspired by YeHoVaH and gave us a new version of the King James minus the apocryphal writings.

So now you've got **three lines in the Talmud devoted to Hanukkah.** However, there are **three pages detailing when, where and how the Hanukkah lights should be lit.** Really? What Hanukkah lights? The hanukkiyah. See, people are out there lighting these hanukkiyahs.

They have the Shamash, the middle candle which is used to light each of the eight other candles on its specific day. **These people don't even know that they're submitting themselves to Talmudic Rabbinic writings.**

You better know what you're doing. Because if you are doing it long enough, pretty soon it becomes custom. And guess what? **Everybody who comes to your house and sees you doing it; they assume that you, being a biblical person, are doing what is in the scripture.** Unless you explain, each and every time, and pretty soon you'll get tired of explaining that this is not in scripture. *"If it's not in scripture, why are you doing it? Why are you doing that?"*

John 10:22, *"And it was at Jerusalem **the Feast of the Dedication**, and it was winter."* Now, the word here *"the Feast of the Dedication,"* and those of you who have a Strong's, which is a basic tool, you'll notice that the **Feast of the Dedication** is all one word. Even though it's several words, Strong's treats that phrase as one word. It is the word *"eng-kah'ee-nee-ah"; presumed compound from (1722) and (2537) (Kahee-nos); Innovatives, i.e. renewal, and then it specifically points to services after the Antiochian interruption): dedication.*

The story of the dedication comes from 1st and 2nd Maccabees. Let's just look at the actual institution of Hanukkah. You can read the story. You'll find that today in Judaism that the actual story concerning the Maccabees is a Jewish book. It recounts Jewish history. Why would it not be included in the Jewish canon? And then get this, it's not included in the Jewish canon but they take Hanukkah out and claim it. *"We'll claim Hanukkah but we reject all this other stuff. And yes, we'll tell the story, but the focus is the miracle of oil."* That's the focus. When you take 3 lines and write 3 pages that are really not about the 3 lines, are you really focused on the actual story? The 3 pages become what is required by those in Judaism. And so you have people who want to identify with the Jewish people. But **they really are not identifying with the Jewish people; they are identifying with Judaism.**

Let's just be real folks, let's keep it real. We identify with stuff that's been rejected by the very people that we are claiming to identify with.

- *2 Maccabees 10:1-2 (KJV), 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.*

So now, Antiochus and the Greeks, come in and they desecrate the temple. And you have to understand something ladies and gentlemen; **every time in history where we have seen the temple desecrated, it is because it had already been defiled.** Just look at the history. Read 1st Maccabees Chapter 1, it says that some wicked men, some **wicked Israelites** approached Antiochus, and said, “*You know what; we want to be like you all. Allow us to build us a gymnasium.*” So that they could walk around naked like at the YMCA. I mean it just led from one thing to another and the next thing you know, the Greeks decide that they’re going to come and take the city and then turn the temple into a holy place for them, which causes them to sacrifice a pig on the altar.

But guess what? At that time many of the Israelites, the Jewish people, were already eating swine. I was at Earth Fair. I told you the story didn’t I? I was in line and there’s a lady there that I kind of befriended. She loves challah and I go there to buy my challah. She’s always talking about **she is Jewish, and she married a Jewish man.** She was brought up orthodox-Jewish. And she asked me if I had a good Thanksgiving. And that’s another story; we won’t get into Thanksgiving yet. She asked me if I had a good Thanksgiving, and then proceeded to tell me about her Thanksgiving and what she had. And of course **she had honey-baked ham.** And I said, “*Now wait a minute, you’re Jewish, right?*” She said, “*Oh yeah, we cheat, we all do. Shhhh... If my Rabbi knew it, he’d kill me.*” It’s like, “*What?*”

Now here I am eating kosher, well, I’m even moving away from the term “*kosher*” because kosher signifies rabbinic approval. So I’m getting away from the term kosher. I’m getting away from everything rabbinic. And there are things that we have simply embraced and adopted, but when we begin to look at the origin of it, it’s like “*Wait a minute!*” Which is why we’re going to talk about Thanksgiving next year, but that’s a different teaching.

- *2 Maccabees 10:2 (KJV), But the altars which the heathen had built in the open street, and also the chapels, **they** pulled down.*

Who did? Maccabeus. At this point, Mattathias the father had died. Judah is in charge.

- *2 Maccabees 10:3 (KJV), 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.”*

The candelabra, the menorah, it wasn't the hanukkiyah. These were the furnishings that Father allowed and specifically gave instructions to Moses to make. Now understand something, when YeHoVaH established the tabernacle, He gave specific instructions on what was supposed to be in the tabernacle, the dimensions of it, everything. And He instructed that there would be an altar of incense, a menorah (7 branch candelabra), and a table of shewbread. And of course, the holy of holies which was not seen except by the high priest, none of the priests. If you weren't the high priest, the only time the ark was ever seen was when it was built, and then when it was removed to go from campsite to campsite. So those were the temple furnishings and the tools used to burn the incense and to light the menorah.

So the whole miraculous oil incident would have had to be done with the 7-branch menorah not a 9-branch one. But in order to perpetuate the whole miracle of oil, a candelabra that had at least 8 branches had to be invented. According to the ritual of purification they had to wait 8 days before the oil would be purified for use. In order to support the legend, a 9 branch candelabra was needed. One light for each day of that 8-day period and one light in the center to light the others on their prescribed day.

People who are lighting Candle One on day one and Candle Two on day two don't even know that they're following the instructions out of Tractate Shabbat in the Talmud, and thereby coming other rabbinic authority. *“I'm not coming under rabbinic authority.” “You're not? Why don't you just light them all on the same day? Where did you get that instruction from?”*

- *2 Maccabees 10:4 (KJV), “When that was done, **they** fell flat down, and besought the Lord that they might come no more into such troubles...”*

Now look at what they said. Verse 4 in Maccabees indicates to us why they thought they had come under siege. This is what they said,

- *2 Maccabees 10:4 (KJV), “...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.”*

Basically they felt that what they were going through was because of their wickedness. Now this goes along with what YeHoVaH spoke to Solomon in 2nd Chronicles, *“If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and turn from their wickedness, they’re idolatrous practices, and seek my face. When they do that then I will hear their prayers from heaven and heal their land. I’m going to remove the parasites. I’m going to remove the unclean things. I’m going to remove the nations that I sent in to humble you.”*

- *2 Chronicles 7:14, (KJV) If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

Every time the people of YeHoVaH turn to idolatry, YeHoVaH sent them into bondage. He’s the same. Think about it ladies and gentlemen. When you have done that which you know is wrong and bad things start happening, you’ll begin to examine yourself if you have any consciousness left, unless you’ve been given over to a reprobate status. If you’ve got any consciousness, when evil befalls you, you start looking at the things that you’re doing and if you want evil to leave, you realize that you now have to repent. You have to turn from the stuff that you did to allow the enemy to come in and wreak havoc in your life. It’s common nature. It’s human nature. It’s spiritual nature.

- *2 Maccabees 10:5-6, (KJV) 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.*

Probably during that 3-year period they were unable to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, Any keeping of Tabernacles and any semblance of it was done on the run. As a matter of fact, Judah issued a decree that they no longer had to honor the Sabbath in order to fight the enemy. If the enemy came at them on the Sabbath day, they would be required to fight on the Sabbath.

Imagine living as a beast. YeHoVaH’s people scavenged trying to live off the land. You see, you talk about preppers. We won’t go there.

- *2 Maccabees 10:7, (KJV) “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.”*

So what are they doing? They are celebrating a late Tabernacles. They’re not lighting hanukkiyahs, and playing with dreidels and gelt money. And let me tell you something, the original celebration looked very much like a Tabernacles, unlike Hanukkah. Hanukkah today doesn’t look anything like Tabernacles, but that’s where it comes from.

- *2 Maccabees 10:8, (KJV) “**They** ordained also by a common statute and decree, That every year those days should be kept of the whole nation of Jews.”*

They? The Maccabees. It would seem that if you are going to adopt this feast and make it a **national feast at the order of the Maccabees**, that it **would only be right that the Maccabees be included in the Jewish canon**. But people do stuff like this.

For instance, I know some Seventh-Day Adventists. They reject the Law. They embrace the Ten Commandments. But the dietary Law, which is not in the Ten Commandments, is a vital part of Seventh-Day Adventism, even to the point that you aren’t even supposed to eat meat. Don’t get me wrong, I’m not a seller of meat. I mean, I like meat, biblically clean meat. But how can the dietary Law have such a prominent place in a community that rejects the Law?

You’ll find that there are people in Christendom today that take all of the blessings from the Old Testament and reject everything else. People take what they want and spit out the rest. So the idea of eating the meat and spitting out the bone really means “*eating what I like and spitting out what I don’t like.*”

Because let me tell you something folks, I know people who eat bones. As a matter of fact, one of the individuals who was a part of the congregation in Grand Rapids used to eat other people’s bones. I’m not talking about human beings’ bones. I’m talking about if you ate chicken and you left that gristle on the top of the bone on your plate. They’d take that bone from your plate, bit off that gristle, crack that leg, and suck out the marrow. See, some people like bones. Do you hear what I’m saying? If you’ve not been exposed to bone eaters then you wouldn’t know what I’m talking about.

Did they have authority from YeHoVaH to institute a feast? That's the question. Did they? And yet I'll tell you something ladies and gentlemen, **there are people who celebrate Hanukkah and flat out reject Yeshua.** No different than those in His day that rejected Him when He came to enlighten them as to what they should be focused on.

- *Deuteronomy 4:2, (KJV) Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.*
- *Deuteronomy 12:32 (KJV) What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.*

You see, when you begin to celebrate Hanukkah, with all of the festive celebration trappings of Hanukkah, you have to be careful that you are not pushing or elevating something to the same statue as that which is commanded by YeHoVaH. Now, **the way that people elevate pagan things, or other things that are not authorized by YeHoVaH, to a level of celebration to YeHoVaH is that they figure out a way through scripture to get YeHoVaH to sanction it.**

So, if we can make Christmas about the birth of Jesus, then now we have brought Jesus into Christmas. And therefore Christmas becomes a Christian holiday. If you could just put some scriptures to it and bring the Almighty into it, then now you can actually stamp His approval on it. Even though He has already said, *“You can't create holidays, you don't have the authority to create holidays. You certainly can't create something to worship, and the people think that what they are worshipping is me. When the fact is, that everything that is involved in it has absolutely nothing to do with me.”*

What has the Christmas tree got to do with the birth of Christ? And why would be giving each other presents when He's the reason for the season? And then to teach this stuff to such a degree, that our children get angry at us if they don't get what they want. You are held hostage on His holy day. Now it becomes all about the children. **“Oh yeah?” So now children are leading the homes.**

There are several Hebrew words that are associated with the Dedications of People, Places and Things. The word **“chanak” is to dedicate or to train up.** Now what's interesting is that *this word is the root of Chanukka, consecration: dedication.* Other words:

- *Qodash: consecrate, dedicate, hallow, keep, prepare, proclaim, purify, sanctify.*
- *Qodesh: a sacred place or thing: consecrated, dedicated, hallowed, holiness, holy, saint, sanctuary.*

You would think that the first Hanukkah was in the Maccabean era.

- *Numbers 7:84, (KJV) “**This** was the dedication ...”*

This was Hanukkah. You see, **Hanukkah is actually the dedication**. That’s what it means. The Festival of Lights or the Feast of the Dedication really is about dedicating the altar that had been defiled by the pagans when they put swine on it. So they tore down the altar, built a new altar and offered sacrifices, and that was the dedication. They dedicated the altar.

The first Hanukkah is found in Numbers Chapter 7,

- *“**This** was the dedication of the altar, in the day when it was anointed, by the princes of Israel: twelve chargers of silver, twelve silver bowls, twelve spoons of gold:”*

And that word is *chanukkah*, look it up. Now notice what’s going on here, there’s a play on words. Like Zion and Zionism is really about Mt. Zion not about some political movement. It’s a play on words. You see, if you are dealing with ignorant people and you associate a word to what they’re doing, they will associate the definition of the word you use because they’re not going to look it up for themselves. Most people won’t do that.

So you can sell people a bill of goods because they’re ignorant and that doesn’t mean you’re stupid, because an ignorant person can become knowledgeable, but they have to apply themselves to learn. There’s nothing wrong about being ignorant. What’s wrong is to stay ignorant. That makes you a fool, especially when you choose to reject the information. A fool says in their heart there is no God. You can also say there is a God, but reject what God says. And in essence you are a set apart fool, a sanctified fool.

This is what Hosea was saying,

- ***Hosea 4:6, (KJV) My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.***

Talking about you believe in the Law, but if you're not keeping the Law, what good is believing it? You deceive yourselves. I have people say, "*Yeah, I keep the Sabbath.*" "*Do you gather?*" "*Well, I gather with my family.*" "*So your family is the assembly now?*" Now, for people who don't have an assembly, that's why we create an online assembly and try to make it as personable as we possibly can. Does that take the place of assembling with Saints? No, but it gives you, at least, an alternative to be with other Saints in an environment, where you can communicate and get to know one another.

Let me tell you something. There are people who are online, developing deeper relationships with people online than there are people who are sitting up in the midst of us. Because you got people who come out of church into the Sabbath but have a church mentality, they come and hear the word but there is no fellowship. As soon as that word is done, "*Bam!*" they're gone and for various reasons.

But it's the assembling of the Saints, and in the midst of that assembly there is fellowship. There is the apostle's teaching. There is the breaking of bread, and there is prayer. This is what Peter and the apostles did in the first assembly. They gathered together, they had fellowship, they broke bread together, they prayed together, and they listened to the teachings together. That's assembling, and that's why we try to create it.

The only thing we can't create for our brothers and sisters online is the wonderful food that we have here and the fellowship. But there is fellowship with individuals online and you can miss out on the opportunity of fellowshiping by thinking like a Sunday-minded person, "*You've heard the word, you've been fed, and now you're out of here.*" And that's up to you, I'm just saying.

The second Hanukkah,

- *Ezra 6:16-17, (KJV)* ¹⁶ *And the children of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of this house of God with joy.* ¹⁷ *And offered at the dedication of this house of God an hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve he goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.*

They were following the instructions of YeHoVaH. Again the word *chanukka'* (*Aramaic*), *same word, consecration: dedication*. They dedicated the house of YeHoVaH, they dedicated the altar.

The third Hanukkah,

- *Nehemiah 12:27, (KJV) "And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings, and with singing, with cymbals, psalteries, and with harps."*

You train them up, you dedicate them. Too many of us have had children and we have passed a prayer over them, "*I want to dedicate my child to God.*" They have a dedication service, but YeHoVaH not talking about a dedication service.

- *The root word of Chanukkah is "chanak", to dedicate, to train up.*
- *Proverbs 22:6, "Train up (dedicate) a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

A dedication of a child is a lifelong process as long as that child is in your space. And when I say your space I'm not just talking about under your roof. **We're responsible for training our children in the way of YeHoVaH.** We must dedicate them, to **chanak**. **And that means to discipline, to dedicate, to train up.**

Things we should dedicate to YeHoVaH.

- *We should dedicate ourselves: Be Holy, our body is the Temple.*
- *We should dedicate our children: Train them up, teach them while you are in the way with them. The firstborn male belongs to YeHoVaH; redeem the firstborn.*
- *We should dedicate our homes.*
- *We should dedicate our land: The earth is YeHoVaH's. Honor YeHoVaH with the Firstfruits.*
- *We should dedicate our business, our income, our wealth. Proverbs 3:9-10, "Honour YeHoVaH with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."*
- *We should dedicate our tithes and offerings. Why, because they're holy unto YeHoVaH; your tithe is holy because it's His. Will a man rob God? The tithe belongs to YeHoVaH. The offerings belong to YeHoVaH.*

And with that, I want to bless you.