

HANUKKAH AND THE CHILDREN OF OIL – PART ONE

An Excerpt from the book FALSE DOCTRINES

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Hanukkah is called in New Testament Scripture “The Feast of Dedication”.

John 10:22-23

22 Now it was the **Feast of Dedication** in Jerusalem, and it was winter.

23 And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon’s porch. (Jesus celebrated this feast, so we should too if we are to walk in His footsteps.)

To understand this holy day we must go back to somewhere around 167 B.C., when the Hebrew people were living under the foreign power of the Greeks. This culture was called Hellenism, and was ruled by Alexander the Great. After Alexander the Great passed on, Antiochus the 4th gained power and control over the province, including the Jewish community in Jerusalem. To make his holdings more secure, he enforced a policy of assimilation into the Hellenistic culture. This by the way, is still Satan’s favorite method of gaining control of God’s people and draining them of their Godly lifestyle. In other words, Antiochus demanded that the people submit to the Greek language, arts, their

way of life and even the Greek's religion. An ultimatum had been given, either Israel must become a part of the Hellenistic ways and give up their customs, Shabbat, Kosher laws, the feasts, circumcision etc., or die! To prove he meant business, Antiochus marched his troops into Jerusalem and totally desecrated the Temple of God. The Altar and the utensils were mutilated, even the golden menorah was defiled and torn down. That was just the beginning of his tyranny.

A pig, which was unclean meat to the Hebrews and a forbidden food, was sacrificed on the holy altar and a statue of the Greek god Zeus was erected as the new point of worship. Antiochus himself insisted that he be called "Epiphanes", meaning "God manifest"! The people of God were forced to participate in his ceremony, with the highlight of the ceremony being the eating of the abominable flesh of the sacrificed swine. Everyone, with no exception, was required to participate in this feast.

In a little village called Modi'in, about 15 miles from Jerusalem, there was an old, Godly priest named Mattathias Maccabee and his 5 sons. When the Greeks chose Mattathias to lead in the horrible ceremony, righteous indignation rose up in his family. Enough was enough! Mattathias and his sons started a revolt. They killed the soldiers that were desecrating the temple and attacked those occupying and holding captive the city. One of the sons named Judah rose to leadership as

the people of God one by one began to join them.

Although overwhelmingly outnumbered and under-supplied, the armies of the Maccabees knew the surrounding country much better than the Greeks and through guerrilla warfare and ambush, succeeded in defeating the enemy. These faithful men held firm to their conviction that the God of Israel was true and faithful and would never let them down. Through their courage and their strong faith in their God, the Maccabees proved that the impossible can happen. In the month of Kislev (December) they recaptured the temple and the city of Jerusalem and successfully drove the Greeks out of their territory.

RESTORATION

Now they faced the horrendous task of restoring the Temple. They first restored the altar and the holy utensils, but of particular importance was the broken 75 pound gold menorah. The menorah represented the light and truth of God as well as being an instrument to show the Hebrews they must experience all 7 holy convocations in their lives. There are 7 lights on the lampstand to remind us of God's appointments with us.

Each convocation is represented with the service lamp in the middle symbolic of

the Holy Spirit and the holy convocation of Pentecost.

They managed to quickly mend the menorah, but another problem developed as they attempted to light it. When they searched for the specially prepared oil, they found only enough to burn one day! Unfortunately it took 8 days to prepare the holy oil. They decided it was better to light the menorah anyway. At least the light of God would shine one day on their victory. To their surprise the menorah burned miraculously non-stop for the 8 days it took to make the new oil ready! God had truly intervened.

So with the temple, its vessels and the menorah now restored, the first feast of dedication, or festival of lights (Hanukkah) was celebrated. The festival was held in honor and gratitude for what God had done. How He supplied the miraculous oil, made possible the refurbishing of the temple and the military victory over Antiochus and his armies. As Hanukkah was celebrated over the years, a different lampstand was introduced for the occasion or season. This one had 9 branches, whereas the first menorah had but seven, depicting the intervention of God when He met with man and joined in the battle to bring victory. However, the restoration of the original lampstand was very much a part of why God fought alongside man. The menorah symbolized His future appointments with earth and her inhabitants.

Leviticus 23:2

2 “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts (not Christmas, Easter and Halloween etc). These feasts are not only celebrated, but they are experienced by God’s people as they grow and mature.

LIST OF GOD’S FEASTS

- Sabbath = entering God’s rest to manifest His works
- Passover = salvation
- Unleavened bread = repentance and forgiveness of sin
- First Fruit = Baptism
- Feast of Weeks or Pentecost = Spirit filled with evidence of speaking in tongues (receiving the nature and gifts of the Holy Spirit).
- Trumpets = receiving your call from the prophets (restoration of the prophets)
- Atonement = laying your will and life on the altar and circumcision of the heart (restoration of the Apostles)
- Shimini Atzeret = the beginning of the church triumphant, children of the 8th day, benefactors of the new holy oil.

- Simchat Torah = God's people become the law over sin and all laws pertaining to this present physical realm, dominion is restored.

After carefully listing each feast God said that they should “be a statute forever through all generations”. When God moved the hearts of His people to add the other two candles for Hanukkah and Purim, without realizing it they were prophesying a far greater fulfillment of these two feasts also.

SO WHY DO WE CELEBRATE HANUKKAH AND PURIM TODAY?

Because Hanukkah commemorates a past victory over an evil race of people, their rulers and their society, shadowing a future victory over the Adamic race with its governments and man run systems and religions, including what Christianity has become. It also symbolizes through the restoration of the temple and Israel's separation from that evil empire, the birth of the new family of God and its pure society. Babylon the Harlot will fall because of this separation and the faith of the new generation will be established.

Psalm 102:18

18 This will be written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD.

PURIM

Purim on the other hand is held in commemoration of the victory led by Esther, over the enemies of God's people. She is a perfect picture of the enlightened, perfected and united Bride of Christ or the Warrior Queen that has become the law over sin and the physical laws of this planet. She will be directed through Christ who dwells in her, to overcome Satan, foreshadowed by Esther's tormentor Haman. In the final quest for victory over the Beast, man's governments, and the kings of the earth, the Warrior Queen, at one with King Jesus dwelling in her, will be victorious. Purim means lots, or a game somewhat like today's dice. God, through His body will cast lots for the Kingdoms of this world against Satan and his body. Satan loses!

Revelation 11:15

15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord

and of His Christ, and **He shall reign forever and ever!**”

As David remembered his past victories of successfully killing a lion and a bear before coming against Goliath, so these past two victories (Hanukkah and Purim) have become Israel’s lion and bear. They are memories of how God performed a miraculous deliverance for us! By recalling why we celebrate these feasts, we build our confidence for the job that lies ahead as we experience the greater Hanukkah and Purim.

For instance, we can see that the oil God provided to keep the lamp going was a shadow of the Holy Spirit and His anointing. This anointing that was on past generations who had obediently experienced the feast of Pentecost, would light the way to the 8th day until the new oil or anointing of the newborn generation could be prepared. This early anointing was experienced by the first church at Acts, the second chapter, as Christianity was birthed.

Acts 2:1-4

1 Now when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind,

and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

However, the anointed two witnesses (Judaism and Christianity), along with the people they lead, are almost gone. Why? As the dark ages came upon the church the light went out, and somehow the apostles and prophets who brought the miracles and revelation to God's people were killed off and forgotten. The church died for a lack of knowledge or spiritual food, and became powerless without the light of revelation and the anointing that is on truth.

Luke 11:49-52

49 “Therefore the wisdom of God also said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute,’

50 “that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation,

51 “from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation.

52 “Woe to you lawyers! For **you have taken away the key of knowledge**. You did **not** enter in **yourselves**, and those who **were** entering in you **hindered**.”

Ezekiel saw the powerless, almost dead church in a vision hundreds of years ago as He saw the valley of dry bones. That valley was actually the valley of decision of Joel 3:14.

Ezekiel 37:1-3

1 The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley and it was full of bones.

2 Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley and indeed they were very dry.

3 And He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” So I answered, “O Lord GOD, **You know**.”

There has been no one to raise the spiritually dead church back to life until new revelation birthed a newborn breed of people that now has the anointing to call them forth.

Joel 2:2

2 A day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. **A people come, great and strong, the like of whom** has never been; nor will there **ever be any such after them, even for many successive generations.**

These are ones who were created to be vessels of light to shine the way to the rest of the feasts and guide God's people up the Highway of Holiness on into eternity. (See our book Highway of Holiness.) The anointing that is on the prophetic words of this new breed with Christ manifesting through them as they preach and prophesy, will have the power to resurrect the spiritually dead that are still on the streets of the dead Adamic church. Again, let us look to Ezekiel for a glimpse of this phenomenon.

Ezekiel 37: 12-13

12 “Therefore **prophesy** and **say to them,** ‘**Thus says the Lord GOD:** “Behold, O My people, I will **open your graves** and **cause** you to **come up** from your **graves**, and bring you into the land of **Israel**.

13 “**Then** you shall know that **I am the LORD**, when I have **opened your graves**, O My people, and **brought you up** from your **graves**.

How are they made to wake up? Verse 12 tells us through prophecy. The new generation is saying “wake up and come out of her”, let the dead bury the dead. Leave the dead church while you can. Sides are being chosen for the final fight, for the final Hanukkah!

Revelation 18:4

4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.”

IN CLOSING

These new creatures are the remnant that God has chosen, preserved, perfected, and prepared to shine as the Menorah, the lampstand lighting the path to eternity. They were chosen before time to walk out of time. However, to be a part of the children of oil, and have the anointing to help others find their way out of the systems, you must have already experienced the first eight feasts. Why? Because the number 8 is symbolic of new beginnings. It takes the combined anointings from all eight feasts to break the yoke the world has over God’s people so they can move forward to the new day. Only those that have enough oil in their lamps gathered from experiencing the first eight feasts are prepared to defeat the enemy

as a modern day Maccabee and be qualified to attend the last two feasts, Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. So don't miss any appointments with God so your lamp will be filled and always ready. The last chapter is about to unfold. Meanwhile have a happy Hanukkah!