

חנוכה

Hanukkah

A Celebration of Dedication

PART 1: Historical Background



Antiochus IV Epiphanes

“A Contemptible Person”

Daniel 11:21

In his place shall arise a contemptible person to whom royal majesty has not been given. He shall come in without warning and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

Daniel 11:31-32

Armed forces will come at his order and profane the sanctuary and fortress. They will abolish the daily burnt offering and set up the abomination that causes desolation. Those who act wickedly against the covenant he will corrupt with his blandishments, but the people who know their God will stand firm and prevail.

Antiochus' Evil Decrees:

1 Maccabees 1:41-62

- • Ordered destruction of Torah scrolls
- • Enforced eating of swine's flesh
- • Make it illegal to circumcise sons
- • Forbade observance of the Sabbath and Moedim
- { • Daily sacrifices were forbidden
- { • Desecrated the Temple with the "abomination of desolation"

מַכַּבֵּי

Judah Maccabee, the Hasmonion

1 Maccabees 4:45-46

...So they tore down the altar, and stored the stones in a convenient place on the temple hill until a prophet should come to tell what to do with them. Then they took unhewn stones, as the Torah directs, and built a new altar like the former on.

25th of Kislev, 165 B.C. – the Temple rededicated

1 Maccabees 4:52-56

Early in the morning on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month [Kislev],...they rose and offered sacrifice, as the Torah directs, on the new altar of burnt offering that they had built....So they celebrated the dedication of the altar for eight days, and joyfully offered burnt offering...

Megillat Antiochus (v.66-68)

After this, the children of the Hasmonians came to the Temple, and they rebuilt the gates that had been destroyed and repaired the breaches, and purified ... from the corpses and impurity. And they searched for extra-pure olive oil to light the Menorah, but only found one flask that was sealed with the signet ring of the High Priest, and they thus knew it was pure. And in it there was only enough oil to kindle for one day. And the God of Heaven, Who causes His Name to rest there, gave a blessing in the oil, and they lit from it for eight days.

**Q: Where did the Hasamoneans
put the desecrated stones?**

One Possibility:

Talmud: Avodah Zarah 16a

***The northeastern chamber – within it the Hasmo-
neans concealed the stones of the altar that the
Greeks had defiled when they seized control of the
Temple.***

Another Possibility:

Solomon's Porch

PART 2: Hanukkah and Yeshua

John 10:22-30

Then came Hanukkah in Yerushalayim. It was winter, and Yeshua was walking around inside the Temple area, in Solomon's Colonnade. So the Judeans surrounded Him and said to Him, "How much longer are you going to keep us in suspense? If You are the Messiah, tell us publicly!" Yeshua answered them, "I have already told you, and you don't trust Me. The works I do in My Father's name testify on My behalf, but the reason you don't trust is that you are not included among My sheep. My sheep listen to My voice, I recognize them, they follow Me, and I give them eternal life. They will absolutely never be destroyed, and no one will snatch them from My hands. My Father, who gave them to Me, is greater than all; and no one can snatch them from the Father's hands. I and the Father are one."

Five proofs of the Messiah:

- Make a public statement at Solomon's porch
 - Claim that He was the Messiah
 - Provide at least two witnesses to His identity
 - Calm the fears of the people
 - Claim unity with the LORD
-

PART 3: Personal Application

חנוכה

שנדש
"Sun"

R' Aryeh Strickoff:

"Hashem educates and prepares us for the awesome light that will be revealed in the times of Messiah by allowing us to experience sparks of that light each year on Hanukkah."

כֹּהֵן ח

= Cohen 8

חָנּוּ | כִּי

= They rested [on the] 25th

Numbers 33:29

And they set out from Mithkah and camped at Hashmonah.

25th

וַיִּחַנוּ בַּחֲשֹׁמְנָה

Genesis 1:3

Then God said, "Let there be light..."

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= 25 25th
 word



