

# *The Torah Project*

## Genesis 41a & The Heart of Hanukkah

### Genesis 41:50-52

Now before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Phera priest of On, bore to him. Joseph named the firstborn **Manasheh**, “For,” *he said*, “God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father’s house.” He named the second **Ephraim**, “For,” *he said*, “God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.”

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Jacob - Israel



Joseph

Poti- Phera  
(Priest of On)



Asenath



Manasheh  
&  
Ephraim

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**Manasheh** (מנשה) = “forgotten” (*kind of*)

“For God has **made me forget** (נשני) *all my trouble and all my father’s house.*”

**Ephraim** (אפרים) = “doubly fruitful”

“For God has **made me fruitful** (הפרני) *in the land of my affliction.*”

## John 12:24

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”*

## Genesis 48:5,14-16,20

“Now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasheh shall be mine, as Reuben and Simeon are.” ... Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh’s head, crossing his hands, although Manasheh was the firstborn. He blessed Joseph, and said, “The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and may my name live on in them, and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and may they grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.” ... He blessed them that day, saying, “By you Israel will pronounce blessing, saying, ‘May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh!’” Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh.

# Chanukkah

## חנוכה

### “Dedication”

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*Chanukkah*

vs.

**Hellenism**

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Alexander the Great

**Gymnasiums** = **Education**  
**Theaters/Arenas** = **Entertainment**  
**Temples** = **Religion**

**Chanukkah**



**Dedication to God**

vs.

**Hellenism**



vs.

**Cultural Pressure**

### **Amos 8:11**

“Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord ADONAI, “When I will send a famine on the land, not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, but rather for hearing the words of Adonai.”

### **Proverbs 22:6**

**Train up** (חנך) a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.

## John 10:22-23, 27-29

At that time the Feast of the Chanukkah took place at Jerusalem; it was winter, and Yeshua was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon... “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. and I give ***chai olam*** to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father’s hand.”

