

חנוכה

Hanukkah

A Celebration of Dedication

Historical Background




Antiochus IV Epiphanes

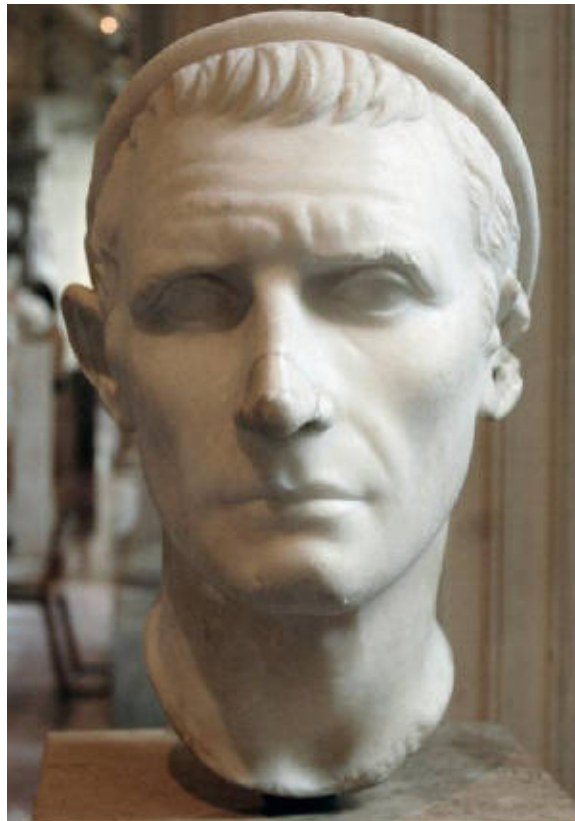
“A Despicable Person”

Daniel 11:21, 29-31

And in [Seleucus IV's] place a despicable person will arise, on whom the honor of kingship has not been conferred, but he will come in a time of tranquility and seize the kingdom by intrigue... At the appointed time, he will return and come into the South, but this last time it will not turn out the way it did before. For ships of Kittim will come against him; therefore he will be disheartened, and will return and become enraged at the holy covenant and take action; so he will come back and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant. 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.



1 Maccabees 1:20-25, 41-64



Antiochus IV Epiphanes



Daniel 11:32-33

And by smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action. And those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder, for many days.

1 Maccabees 2:1-7

Antiochus' Evil Decrees:

- Ordered destruction of Torah scrolls
- Enforced eating of swine's flesh
- Forbade circumcision
- Forbade observance of the Sabbath and Moedim
- Forbade the daily sacrifices
- Desecrated the Temple with the "abomination of desolation"

Judah Maccabee

1 Maccabees 4:36-51

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 offerings...

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.

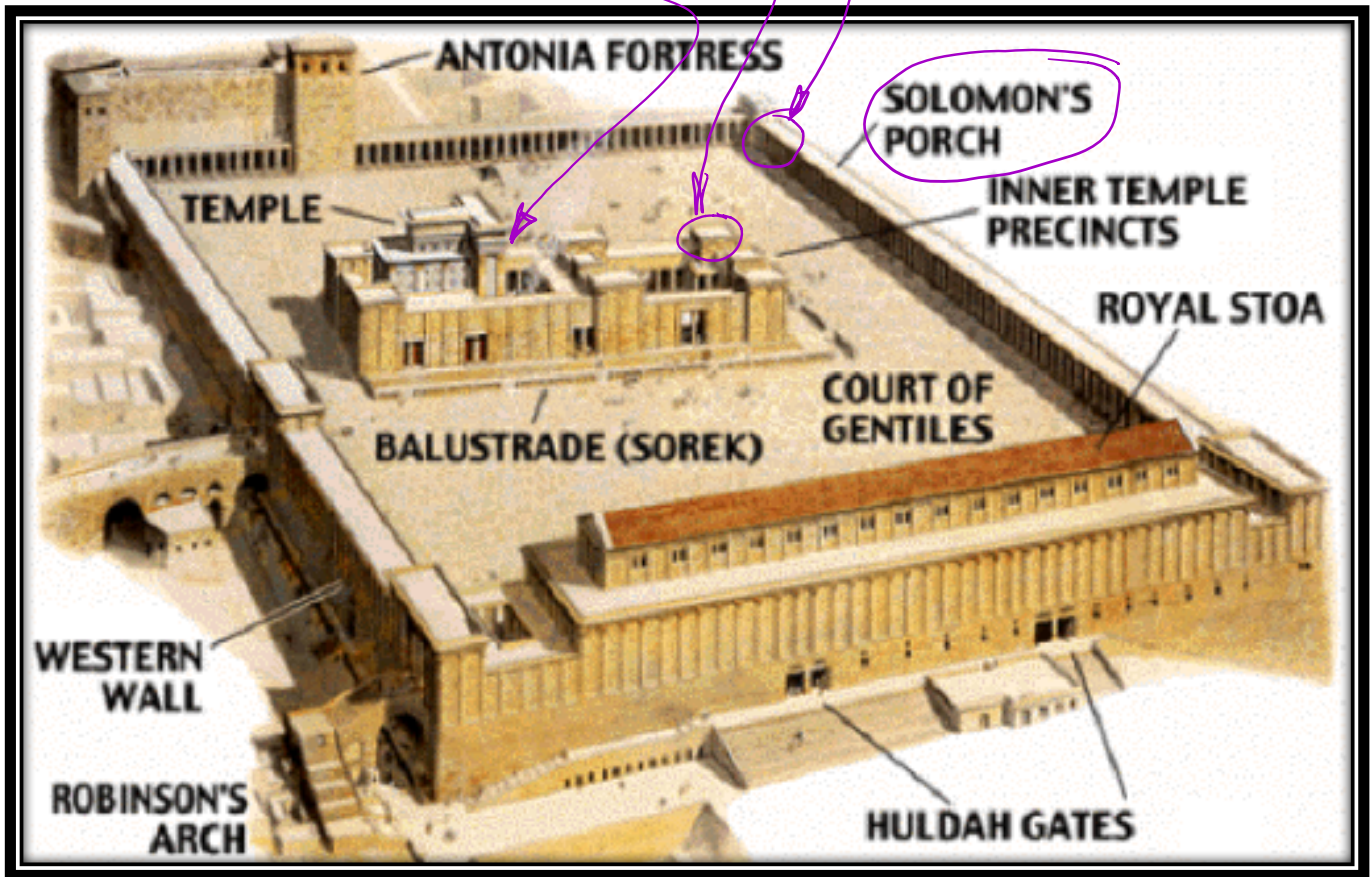
Q: Where did the Hasmoneans put the desecrated stones?

Talmud: Avodah Zarah 52b

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

3 Possibilities

N



Yeshua & Hanukkah

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 Adonai

John 10:22-33

Then came Hanukkah in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Yeshua was walking around inside the Temple area,^① **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,^② **"I have already told you, and you don't trust Me."**^③ **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.^④ **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.^⑤ **I and the Father are one."** Once again the Judeans picked up rocks in order to stone him. Yeshua answered them, "You have seen me do many good deeds that reflect the Father's power; for which one of these deeds are you stoning me?" The Judeans replied, "We are not stoning you for any good deed, but for blasphemy- because you, who are only a man, are making yourself out to be God."

The Two Great Miracles of Hanukkah:

1. Victory over the Syrian army
2. Miracle of the Oil

Psalm 40:2


He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay; And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm.

הֵיוֹן
"Greece"
(Yavan)
"the"



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.

R' Aryeh Strickoff:

"let there be light" = 

 "light" "let there be" = 25

