

**As we sit here today, the
world is literally AND
spiritually getting darker.**

We long for the light.



FEELS LIKE

J  Y



Joy is Found in the Light of Messiah



Timeline of Writing of Bible Books

Genesis	ca. 1446-1406 BC
Micah	ca. 740-710 BC
Jeremiah	ca. 585-580 BC
Isaiah	ca. 700-680 BC
Hosea	ca. 715 BC

Mark	ca. 50-70 AD
Luke	ca. 59-63 AD
Colossians	ca. 60-62 AD
Matthew	ca. 70-80 AD
John	ca. 80-95 AD

Intertestamental Period

Birth of Jesus occurred in
approx. 4 BC



The Story of Hanukkah

חֲנֻכָּה



FEELS LIKE
JOY

Antiochus
attacked
Jerusalem in
167 BC and
killed 40,000
Jews and sold
another
40,000 Jews
into slavery.





Antiochus banned all Jewish traditions, feast days, dietary laws, customs, study of Torah, circumcision, and anything else held holy by the Jewish people upon penalty of death. He set up a statue of Zeus in the Holy Temple, the first abomination of desolation, and defiled the Temple by sacrificing pigs and other pagan offerings on the altar.

The Maccabean revolt began in the town of Modiin and was led by the five sons of the priest Mattityahu, and especially his son Judah "the Hammer" Maccabee.



God staked His reputation on His promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when He vowed to preserve and sustain their descendants forever. No wonder Satan has attempted to annihilate the Jews throughout history!

Antiochus was one of Satan's agents in his diabolical scheme to destroy the Jews and so make God a liar! In fact, the prophet Daniel predicted the wicked deeds of Antiochus (Daniel 8-11) and even depicted him as a type of the anti-Christ, the beast of Revelation 13.

<https://jewsforjesus.org/publications/newsletter/newsletter-dec-1998/christ-in-the-feast-of-hanukkah>





Once the Temple was restored, the Maccabees declared an eight-day feast of dedication

Hanukkah, the eight-day Festival
of Dedication, begins on the
25th day of the month of Kislev.

TONIGHT at sundown!



Jesus of Nazareth celebrated Hanukkah

John 10



(Around 29 or 30 AD)

At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; John 10:22

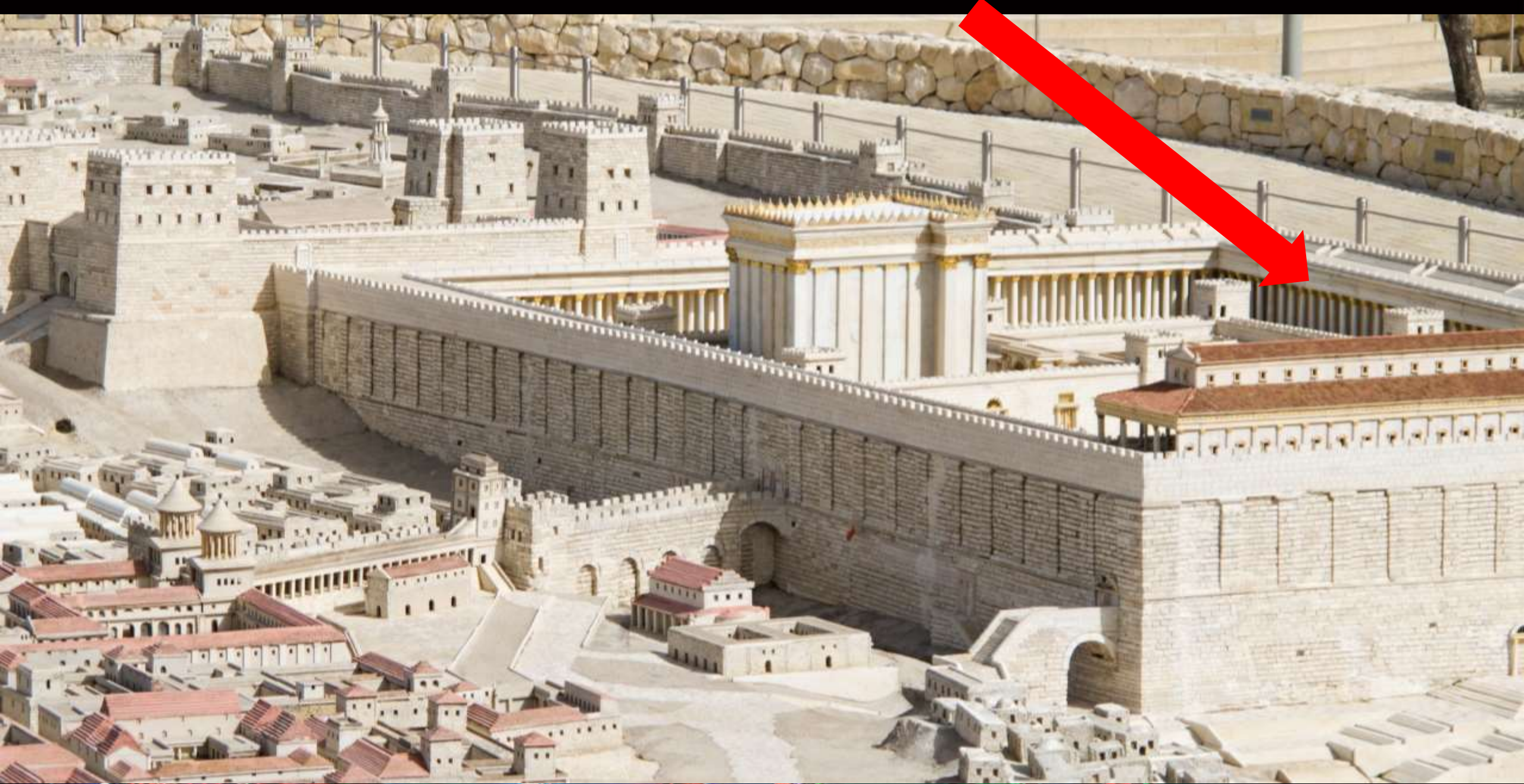
- “Dedication” in Greek is the word egkainia ἐγκαίνια; in Hebrew the word is hanukkah חנוכה
- John’s gospel is the earliest mention of Hanukkah in all literature
- This holiday is mentioned in the Bible only in the New Testament in the context of the ministry of Jesus
- Jesus traveled from Galilee to Jerusalem to celebrate Hanukkah



Model of the Jewish Temple as it appeared in the days of Jesus



Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon. John 10:23



Jesus was
walking in
the temple
in the
portico
[στοά *stoa*]
of Solomon.
John 10:23

SOLOMON'S COLONNADE



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Now we know WHERE this conversation took place (Solomon's Portico in the Temple) and WHEN this conversation took place (during the Festival of Hanukkah)...

The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ [Messiah], tell us plainly." John 10:24





- Jesus was asked this question near the Eastern gate of the Temple Mount, the place where Ezekiel prophesied that the Messiah would enter Jerusalem.
- Then He brought me back by the way of the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces the east; and it was shut. The Lord said to me, “This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it, for the Lord God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut.”
Ezekiel 44:1-2 (written approx. 590 B.C.)



What did Jesus teach on Hanukkah?

Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, these testify of Me.” John 10:25

- If Jesus really was the Messiah they reasoned, He had the power to preserve the Jewish people from the tyranny of the Romans, just as God had preserved them from evil Antiochus.

- <https://jewsforjesus.org/publications/newsletter/newsletter-dec-1998/christ-in-the-feast-of-hanukkah//>

- It was not lack of information but lack of willingness to believe. – Wycliffe Bible Commentary



The popular picture of the Messiah in Jesus' time was that He would be a "super-Maccabee," a warrior who would destroy Israel's enemies and bring in everlasting peace. What better time than Hanukkah to ask Jesus to "come right out with it" if He were the Messiah, and to show it by His actions.

Jesus' response was that He already made it clear by His actions, which were not those of a super-Maccabee but of a healer and teacher. Jesus was the kind of Messiah who, rather than destroying Rome, went to His death to atone for our sins and subsequently rose from the dead.

Jesus answered them, “But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.” John 10:26-28

- For Jesus to have said less than to affirm that He was the Son of God would have been to speak an untruth. – Wycliffe Bible Commentary
- They were looking for salvation from an earthly deliverer from earthly problems. Jesus spoke of eternal life. – Doug Hershey



Jesus answered them, “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. I and the Father are one.” John 10:29-30

- “I and the Father are one”... this was the “plain answer” that the religious leaders had asked for.
- Shema prayer: Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad (The Lord is our God, the Lord is One)
- The Father and the Son are not identical persons, they are one in essence: the Father is God and the Son is God, but the Father is not the Son and the Son is not the Father. He is speaking about unity, not identity. – Bible Exposition Commentary



The Jews [some of the unbelievers in Judea] picked up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, “I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?” The Jews answered Him, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.” John 10:31-33

*Fresh in the people’s minds was the fact that they had rightly rejected the false claims of Antiochus. Now here is Jesus, standing in the Temple asserting His own claim to deity. The reaction of the people was predictable. And if He hadn’t been who He claimed to be, they would have been absolutely right to do so.

Jesus answered them, “Has it not been written in the (your) Law [Tanakh], ‘I said, you are gods’ [see Psalm 82:6]? If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?” John 10:34-36



Jesus gave a history lesson from Psalm 82

The human judges under God's indictment roam the earth without spiritual or intellectual understanding and in moral darkness so that the foundations of the earth are shaken, that is, law and order are undermined. God warned the wicked judges that they will perish. He had appointed them as "gods" and as sons of the Most High, His representatives on earth. But despite their exalted position, they were held accountable by God. - Bible Knowledge Commentary



Jesus answered them, “If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.” John 10:37-38

*During the Hanukkah season of remembering miracles, Jesus pointed out to His listeners that the miracles He had done authenticated His claim that He was, indeed, the long-awaited Jewish Messiah. His works and His true character clearly demonstrated who He was.

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/Hanukkah-Christian.html>



Therefore they were seeking again to seize Him, and He eluded their grasp. John 10:39

During Hanukkah, the people in the days of Jesus and the people today are confronted with the same fundamental question... Is Jesus really the promised Messiah sent to save all mankind?



**What lessons can followers
of Jesus learn from the
Hanukkah story?**



- **Never be afraid to stand up for truth.** Judah the Maccabee and his band of brothers bravely fought those who tried to extinguish all that the Jewish people stood for. The Syrian-Greeks tried to force the Jews to accept Greek culture instead of living a life committed to biblical values. Though outnumbered, the Maccabees did not allow the daunting odds to douse their spirit. They fought this cultural battle – and triumphed.
- **A little light pushes away the darkness.** We kindle the menorah during the darkest time of the year, as dusk is falling. The sky is turning black. Yet we have the power to light up the night. There are times in life that we feel as if we are immersed in challenges that take our breath away. It is easy to fall into despair. The Hanukkah lights call out to us. See how just a bit of light can push away the darkness! Never despair. Never lose hope. Hold onto to your faith.

<https://aish.com/five-hidden-messages-of-the-hanukkah-lights/>



• **The search itself is a miracle.** We celebrate Hanukkah for eight days because of the miracle of the menorah. There was sufficient pure oil found to light the menorah in the Temple for just one day, and the menorah continued to burn for seven more days. Why count the first day as a miracle? Because even searching for the oil in the Temple was a miracle. The Temple had been desecrated by the Greeks. The Jews could have easily given up seeking oil that remained pure with the seal of the High Priest. But instead of giving in to despair, the Hasmoneans took action and refused to surrender to hopelessness. In life, we can easily raise our hands up and say, “This is impossible. Why even try?” The search for oil was a triumph of the spirit. Every search for light despite that which brings you down is a miracle.

<https://aish.com/five-hidden-messages-of-the-hanukkah-lights/>



- **Always increase in matters of godliness and Torah-observance.** Sure, a single flame was good enough for yesterday, but today needs to be even better. Are we growing spiritually?
- **Take it to the streets.** Hanukkah is unique in that its primary command (mitzvah) is observed in public. It's not enough to be a believer at heart, or even at home. Hanukkah teaches us to shine outwards into our surroundings with the Godly glow of faith.
- **Don't be ashamed to obey God (perform mitzvahs), even if you will feel different.** Rather, be like a menorah, proudly proclaiming its radiant uniqueness for all to see.

- www.Chabad.org



Jesus, our Messiah, is the Light of God

Hanukkah is celebrated using a special Hanukkah menorah with nine lights. One uses a match to light the *shammash* (“servant”), and it is then employed to light one candle the first night, two the second, and so on until on the eighth night all eight lights and the shammash are burning brightly.

For followers of Jesus the imagery is rich: Yeshua, the “light of the world” (John 8:12), came as a servant (Mark 10:45) to give light to everyone (John 1:4–5), so that we might be lights to others (Matthew 5:14).

– Jewish New Testament Commentary



**For followers of Jesus, what is
the Connection between
Hannukah and Christmas?**



- IF faithful Jews don't courageously stand up for righteousness and defeat the Greek army in 164 BC and restore Temple sacrifices in Jerusalem and faithfully worship the God of Israel...
- IF the study of Torah and the observance of Shabbat and the belief in the writings of the biblical prophets is not maintained...
- IF a Jewish culture no longer exists and a Jewish baby boy is not born into a faithful, God-loving, Bible-believing, Torah-observant Jewish home to two Jewish parents in approximately 4 BC...
- THEN we, Jews and Christians alike, may not have a Messiah, the Jewish man who is also God, the Redeemer named Yeshua

So, without Hannukah... we may not have Christmas

