

The Apostles all agree that those who repent of sin (1 Yahchanan 3:4) and are publicly immersed -baptized into the Torah Covenant through Yahsha h'Meshiakh become that home or Temple for YHWH...Something worth fighting for!

*"Or do you not know that your body is the Temple of YHWH's spirit?..." – 1 Cor.3:16; 6:19.*

Through following in the obedient footsteps of Yahsha to YHWH's every word (Deut.8:3; Matt. 4:4), YHWH's spirit of righteousness and love takes up residence within you (Rom.8:9-11; Acts 5:32). You must understand that it is through our representation of Him that acceptable worship is offered to His Name...

*"Therefore, I appeal to you, brothers, by the mercies of YHWH, that you present your BODIES/TEMPLES as living offerings, set-apart acceptable to YHWH, which is your reasonable service."*

**– Romans 12:1**

For this true worship to be rendered in His Name, the "Temple" must be completely dedicated (Hebrew: Chanukkah), and not given over to profane abominable practices as forbidden in His Torah Covenant.

During the Maccabean period, there were a few righteous leaders who dedicated themselves to YHWH, most notably Mattathias and his sons. Their devotion to YHWH's righteousness prompted them on to resist the enemy in their land against great odds, and YHWH helped them prevail. It was these righteous champions who then re-dedicated the Temple of YHWH once again. The lesson of dedicating ourselves completely to YHWH amidst the pagan idolatry all around us during the Christmas season is the only way that YHWH can deliver us from being defiled. So "dedicate" your temple – your body and life to His service. Truly, in this way, you will be answering Yahsha's calling, and you will be a living example of His true light behind Chanukkah!



#### LEARNING FROM YAHSHA'S EXAMPLE

Since that time, some 160 years before the coming of the Meshiakh, Chanukkah had been celebrated; and it was celebrated in Yahsha's day as well. Every person who claims to follow Yahsha h'Meshiakh (Yahchanan 10:27) willingly affirms this truth: what is important to Him is important to me. Yahsha understood the

significance of the miracles, the prophecies, and the martyrs of the Maccabean period. Therefore, He understood the importance of celebrating Chanukkah. As in Yahchanan 10:22, many of the Jews were seeking a militant Messiah, just like Judah Maccabee, to deliver them from foreign occupation and restore the Kingdom of YHWH on earth. Yahsha wanted His people to understand not only the physical lessons of deliverance and freedom, but the hope of eternal life He would provide through His death and resurrection. What kind of lunatic would turn down such an incredible invitation from heaven?

Seeing just a little of how Yahsha related to Chanukkah, should make us think about the way we view it. Chanukkah is a time of celebration and remembrance. A time to reflect back on all the ways YHWH has provided deliverance for His people culminating in the Final Deliverer. It can be a time of sharing and teaching others the great news about the coming King of kings – Yahsha h'Meshiakh! The heavenly Abba YHWH speaks to us of His long awaited arrival in **Malakyah 3:1...**

*"Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the King whom you seek, will suddenly come to His Temple, even the Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming!..."*

The Messenger of the Marriage Covenant has come...and is coming again! He is YHWH's anointed Yahsha h'Meshiakh Himself. During the winter time of Chanukkah almost 2,000 years ago, He came to YHWH's Temple in Jerusalem calling His sheep to follow Him....Will you?

**Don't be deceived any longer.  
Contact the Remnant today!**



*"...only a Remnant will be saved." – Romans 9:27*

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# CHANUKKAH

**Let His Light Burn Bright!**



**First US Chanukkah stamp ever made.**

*"Now it was **Chanukkah** – the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. And Yahsha was walking on Solomon's Porch of the Temple of YHWH, when the Jews came, surrounded Him, and said to Him,*

*How long will you keep us in suspense?*

*If You are the Meshiakh, then tell us! I told you, but you do not believe. The works that I do in My Abba's Name, they witness on My behalf. But you do not believe because you are not among My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."* **Yahchanan (John) 10:22-27**



Chanukkah was a very significant celebration and memorial to Yahsha Messiah and His Apostles, so much so that the Apostle Yahchanan recorded one of the Messiah's most beautiful speeches for His remnant which took place specifically at Chanukkah. As Jews themselves, the miracle of Chanukkah meant the survival of the nation of Yahdaim (Jews) and the survival of the only true worship of YHWH in the earth. **DEDICATE** yourself to Meshiakh!

Although not required in the Torah to be observed as a Festival to YHWH, such as Passover or Yom Kippur, Chanukkah is a memorial of a major success story in the history of the Yahdaim (Jews) in Israel during the period of the conquering Greek Empire. The Maccabees preserved the Jewish nation, the city of Jerusalem and the One true faith of YHWH in the earth. Chanukkah recalls the ideal faith and courage required by YHWH's Remnant few to over-come this world's pressures of pagan assimilation and oppression (Rom.12:2). With the soon to be fulfilled prophecy of a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem and the latter day "Abomination of Desolation" to reside within, Chanukkah is a warning & a timeless lesson for those of today who seek the essence of what pure worship of YHWH is all about.

*"Him that overcometh will I make a support stone or column in the temple of My Abba"*  
- Rev.3:12



### THE LESSONS OF HISTORY

To fully understand the spiritual depth of this occasion, we must go back to the tumultuous time in the history of the Jews, as some say "the time between the testaments" around 167 bce. Commonly referred to as the "Silent Years", YHWH Himself was neither silent nor absent at this time.

As was so often the case, the Jewish people were subjected to the oppression of a foreign power. A few generations earlier, the Greeks had come to world power thru the remarkable military leadership of Alexander the Great (fulfilling the prophecies in Daniyl 7:6, 8:21, and 11:2-4). With the ascension of this empire, Alexander unified the ancient world into one common government and culture called "Hellenism". After his untimely death from intoxication at age 32, there was a political scramble among four of his generals, resulting in the division of the Greek empire (Dan.8:22; 11:4). Eventually, after a political tug-of-war, the Judean province fell to the Seleucid leadership of the rabidly anti-semitic Antiochus IV in 168 bce.

Seeking to unify his holdings, Antiochus enforced a policy of assimilation and submission into the prevailing Hellenistic culture, irrespective of the beliefs or culture of the captive peoples. This meant all aspects of life, including language, the arts, and even religion. Everything was to conform to the "superior" & "civilized" Greek way of life and values.

Judaism was virtually the only culture that resisted the encroachment of Hellenism. Although

many Jews in Judea were seduced to the Hellenistic way (Dan.11:32-34), there were a significant number of traditional Jews who were appalled at the changes in their society, which included the *nudity* of the Greek gymnasia. Antiochus, growing more hostile towards the stubborn Yahdaim (Jews) who refused to abandon their Torah heritage (Dan. 11:32b), took steps to enforce his Hellenization policy. This once benevolent government under Alexander, now launched an all out campaign to completely subjugate the Jewish nation, both in body and mind. An ultimatum was given: either the Jewish community surrender its distinctive religious customs (Shabbat, kosher laws, circumcision, etc.) or be slaughtered.

The Jewish-Hellenist traitors helped to hunt down the righteous who had fled into hiding. Tens of thousands died in YHWH's Name rather than convert. Jews that couldn't flee were tortured. Jewish women were forced to watch the slaying of their children, or were taken away to be defiled. With Antiochus' annoyance at the failure of his threats and the failure of the Hellenists to achieve his aims, his barbaric troops marched into Jerusalem and desecrated the Temple of YHWH, erected and dedicated an idol to the Greek god Zeus. Antiochus - imagining himself to be the incarnation of this god on earth, insisted on being called "Ephiphany" or God Manifest, thus fulfilling Dan. 11:36. On Dec.25 (at the winter solstice) a swine - the quintessential symbol of non-kosher animals (the origin of the Christmas ham!) was sacrificed on the Temple altar in honor of the pagan god's birthday. The pig's blood was then brought into the Temple's Qodesh h'Qodeshim (Holy of Holies). This act was without precedent in the history of Israel, but was yet prophesied (Dan.11:31)!

During his rule, Antiochus also ordered other altars built throughout the land and instructed that similar sacrifices be made. The murmurings of revolt were heard throughout Judea and were crystallized in a small village called Modi'in. Syrian troops had entered the town to enforce the pagan policy with the sacrificial highlight of eating swine's flesh. Mattathias, an elderly Jewish priest, was chosen by Seleucid soldiers. He indignantly refused to offer such a sacrifice when commanded. When another man stepped forward to fulfill the idolatrous command, Mattathias drew a sword and killed the Syrian officer. He then fled into the hill country and joined his five sons. Shortly thereafter, Mattathias died and his son Judah Maccabee "the Hammer" took command - beginning was became known as the Maccabean Revolt. It was a time of resistance,

revolution, and ultimately restoration in the land of Israel. Turning to the more creative devices of guerrilla warfare, this small rag-tag bunch of faithful worshipers of YHWH defeated the Syrian enemy with surprising success! Motivated by the firm conviction that the Almighty YHWH of Israel was true and faithful, the Maccabees proved that the seemingly impossible could take place. Three years after the initial desecration, in the 9<sup>th</sup> moon Chislev, they drove out the Syrians and recaptured and restored the Temple mount in Jerusalem!

Now the Maccabees faced the sober task of restoring the Temple compound. It was in shambles, desecrated by the idolatry of the Greeks. The righteous Maccabees and their followers quickly cleansed the altars, restored the furnishings, and repaired the broken menorah which symbolized the light of YHWH. During the time that the Temple laid desecrated, a number of Festivals had passed, the last one missed having been Succot (the Feast of Tabernacles). The people decided together to celebrate the Dedication (Chanukkah) ceremonies by observing YHWH's eight day Feast of Succot.

To restore Temple services, the menorah required specially prepared oil, and only one undesecrated and sealed container was found, which would only last one day. In what is believed to be an act of YHWH, the oil miraculously burned the full eight days of the Feast until a fresh supply, made specifically for the menorah, could be brought from another town. Thus began the tradition of lighting the eight-branched menorah, called "Chanukkah", during this winter season.

In the Jewish tradition, the ninth candle has been designated as the "shamash" which is pagan Jewish tradition for "shamash" is the name of the Babylonian sun-god. The Remnant of YHWH calls this the "Obadyah" or servant light, and this lights all the other candles during the eight days. This Obadyah candle reminds us of YHWH's provision of a humble servant - Yahsha Messiah - who came into the world, a simple light illuminating the darkness.

*"The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light...upon them a light  
has brightly burned" - Y'shayah 9:2*



### DEDICATED VESSELS TO YHWH

For the Temple to be a proper place of service to YHWH and for acceptable offerings be made, it must be set apart and undefiled - completely dedicated! And where, today, do we find the Temple of YHWH? *YOU are that Temple of YHWH!*