BIBLE STUDY: THE JEWISH FESTIVAL OF HANUKKAH: A LOOK AT ITS BIBLICAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CHRISTIANS TODAY

The Jewish Festival Of Hanukkah:
Do YOU Know The Story Behind It & Why Jesus Said It Would Be Of Future Significance For ALL Christians?

Bible Studies for those who want to know The TRUTH!!!
One Nation Under God Ministries  www.onug.us
BIBLE STUDY: THE JEWISH FESTIVAL OF HANUKKAH: A LOOK AT ITS BIBLICAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CHRISTIANS TODAY

Did you know the New Testament actually records that Jesus kept this holiday? This “Festival of Lights”, as it is sometimes called, was also used by the Jews in the temple on at least one occasion, to try and stone to death Christ! Remarkably, Jesus used the occasion to bring many Jews to Salvation - through faith in Him as the Messiah (John 10:22-42)!!! Both the Prophet Daniel and the Apostle John, warn us that the events that preceded the first Hanukkah are destined to happen again; will you be ready for them?

Bible Study Instructions: One Nation Under God Ministries (www.onug.us) publishes and distributes weekly Bible Studies, worldwide – free of charge, to anyone who requests them, in both printed and electronic formats. Our Studies are intended to be a simple and fun way to learn the Scriptures, and are very easy to follow! We adhere to Jesus Christ’s Biblical instructions to teach and feed the flock of God portions of meat in due season, on weekly Sabbaths, and on the seven annual Holy Days throughout each calendar year (Luke 12:42 / Isaiah 28:9-10 / Matthew 13:52). Using both the Old and New Testaments, our Bible Studies are designed to present a premise, make a statement, or ask a question – followed by one or more Scriptural references. Just look up and read from your Bible the Scriptures listed. Comments following questions elaborate on the Scriptures you just read. Pray always before beginning any study of God’s Word, asking God to open both your eyes and your mind to His Truth; then Prove everything you read, is in fact the Truth, by comparing it to The Word of God (1 Thessalonians 5:21 / 2 Timothy 3:15-17). Then use the Biblical System of Checks and Balances, and SEE if both Jesus Christ, and the First Century Church of God Apostles – also Did, Said, and Taught these SAME THINGS (Galatians 1:1-12, 5:25 / 1 Peter 2:21, 25 / 1 John 2:3-6)! That’s all there is to it! Our Bible Studies are based on the King James Version, unless otherwise stated. We will be praying for your eyes to “see” (Matthew 13:11-17); and we are always available to answer any of
Hanukkah (sometimes spelled as “Chanukkah”), is rich in history, tradition, and when examined by Christians, should serve to remind us of end-time Biblical Prophecy. As followers of Christ Jesus, and students of the Word of God, we should all take a few moments to learn this fascinating history, which is retold each year as The Hanukkah Story; then teach it to others!

Hanukkah is a Jewish tradition and holiday (distinct from the commanded Biblical Holy Days) celebrated for eight days and nights. It starts on the 25th day of the month of Kislev, in the modern Jewish calendar, which is based on the Biblical or Hebrew calendar of old; and coincides with the Roman calendar this year from sundown Sunday, December 02, 2018 thru sundown Monday, December 10, 2018.

We should remember here that God always numbers His months, starting with the first in Spring. This system existed in the pre-flood world (Genesis 7:9-13, 8:1-7). Moses was taught this same pre-existing system by God, to re-educate His People who had since lost this knowledge in Egyptian captivity! Notice that God uses numbers as names for each month; NOT Names! Most of us have grown up using names for months, instead of numbers; and we don’t even realize it is proof of our generational curse, that we have been consumed by the pagan societies that enslaved our ancestors so many centuries ago (Jeremiah 16:10-18). “What is our sin that we have committed against the LORD our God? (verse 10)” – Let’s see: How many of you will keep a pagan feast to a pagan god, using a pagan time keeping system such as “Merry Christmas” or “Happy Birthday Jesus” on December 25, 2018? There is NOT one Biblically obedient precept contained in this entire activity, or in the way most reconcile “when” to observe it!!! If this offends you, read Deuteronomy 12:1-4, 28-32 / Jeremiah 10:1-6; then watch our video on the Truth about Christmas at www.onug.us!!!

https://youtu.be/mpfDryeA4Js
Let’s read what God says about Pastors who teach pagan systems to their flocks in Jesus Christ’s name (Jeremiah 23:1-2, 7-8)! This is where we are now, today in 2016 A.D.; we (even the Jewish community) use pagan and Babylonian names and Roman-Catholic reckoning to figure out our system of time keeping – even after God has restored a remnant of Israel (Benjamin, Levi, and Juda) to Samaria or what we today refer to as the nation of Israel in the holy land. But God says he will eventually send His Son to earth to again restore (as He did with Moses), God’s time keeping mechanisms and Holy Days (Jeremiah 23:3-6)!!! Soon the whole world will keep the Signs of God (Exodus 31:12-18 / Zechariah 14:16-19 / Isaiah 66:23-24)!!! www.onug.us

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secular/Pagan Weekday Name</th>
<th>Hebrew &quot;Name&quot;</th>
<th>Biblical Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Yom Reeshone</td>
<td>First day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Yom Shaynee</td>
<td>Second day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Yom Shlee´she</td>
<td>Third day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Yom Revee´e</td>
<td>Fourth day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Yom Khah´mee´she</td>
<td>Fifth day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Yom Ha´shee´she</td>
<td>Sixth day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Shabbat</td>
<td>Rest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mo. #</td>
<td>Babylonian Calendar</td>
<td>Meaning of Babylonian Months</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/1</td>
<td>Nisan</td>
<td>Their flight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/2</td>
<td>Iyyar</td>
<td>(natural) healing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/3</td>
<td>Sivan</td>
<td>Bright - their covering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/4</td>
<td>Tammuz</td>
<td>Hidden - giver of the vine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/5</td>
<td>Av</td>
<td>Father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/6</td>
<td>Elul</td>
<td>A vain thing - nothingness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/7</td>
<td>Tishri</td>
<td>Beginning (from reishit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/8</td>
<td>Keshvan</td>
<td>Eighth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/9</td>
<td>Kislev</td>
<td>Security, trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/10</td>
<td>Tevet</td>
<td>Good (from &quot;Tov&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/11</td>
<td>Shevat</td>
<td>meaning unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>Adar</td>
<td>Strength</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>* Adar II</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Babylonian / Hebrew calendars add an additional month added during Leap Years (a new year starts at the first sighting of a spring new moon, AND buds of spring are evident- if it is still too cold, the month is moved back to Adar II or a 13th month is added). About every 3rd year. There are 7 leap years in a 19 year. This knowledge had been totally rejected by the time of the Julian (Roman) and Pope Gregory XIII (January 1502 - 10 April 1585 A.D. or the Gregorian or Catholic) calendars; which stay fixed on a permanent 12 month cycle. www.onug.us

In Hebrew, the word "Hanukkah" means "dedication". The name reminds us, today, that this holiday commemorates the rededication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem following the Jewish victory over the Syrian-Greeks in 165 B.C. (Before Christ).

The Hanukkah Story: www.onug.us

In 168 B.C. the Jewish Temple was seized by Syrian-Greek soldiers and dedicated to the worship of the god Zeus (the head Greek god. The Romans regarded the god Jupiter as the equivalent of the Greek god Zeus. Jupiter was the brother of Neptune and Pluto who each ruled over their dominions: the sky, the seas, and the underworld respectively).
Although the temple conquest upset the Jewish people, many were afraid to fight back for fear of reprisals. Then in 167 B.C., the Syrian-Greek emperor Antiochus ruled any observance of the Laws of God was an offense punishable by death! (We can see this again happening to God’s people in the last times. See Revelation 20:4)! He also ordered that all Jews must only worship his Greek gods (The ancient Greeks had over 390 different gods, presided over by Zeus, who ruled over all of them from Mount Olympus. See Acts 14:1-24, 17:13-43).

Jewish resistance began in the village of Modiin, near Jerusalem. Greek soldiers forcibly gathered the Jewish villages and told them to bow down to an idol, then to eat the flesh of a pig (both were forbidden practices: Exodus 20:4 / Leviticus 11:7). Satan and his followers will always profane what God has ordained (Luke 22:19 / John 6:54).

A Greek officer ordered Mattathias, a Jewish High Priest, to acquiesce to Greek demands; but Mattathias refused. When another villager stepped forward and offered to cooperate on Mattathias' behalf, the High Priest became outraged. He drew his
sword and killed the villager, then turned on the Greek officer and killed him too. Mattathias' five sons along with the other villagers attacked the remaining soldiers, and killed them all.

(Patriot Note: Almost sounds like an example of God - fearing people exercising their right to keep and bear arms, to defend their Religious Liberties, their way of life, and rid their land of foreign troops).

Mattathias and his family went into hiding in the mountains, where other Jews wishing to fight against the Greeks joined them. Eventually they succeeded in retaking Palestine from the Greeks. These rebels became known as the Maccabees, or Hasmoneans.

Once the Maccabees had regained control, they returned to the Temple in Jerusalem. By this time it had been spiritually defiled by being used for the worship of foreign gods, and by the sacrificing of swine, over the previous three and one half years. Jewish troops were determined to purify the Temple by burning ritual olive oil in the Temple's menorah. But to their great dismay, they discovered that there was only one day's worth of oil left (a single jar – still sealed and not polluted). They lit the menorah anyway, and to their surprise, the small amount of oil lasted a full eight days (the time it would take to press and make ready new oil)!

A number of historians believe that the reason for the eight-day celebration was that the first Hanukkah was a belated celebration of the Fall Holy Days: Sukkot (The Feast of Tabernacles) and Shemini Atzeret (The Last Great Day). This was because during the war with the Greeks, the Jews were not able to celebrate these festivals, when lamps were supposed to be lit in the Temple, until later on.

Today, the miracle of the Hanukkah oil is celebrated every year, in the winter, when Jews light a special menorah known as a hanukkiyah for eight days. The current tradition, as it has evolved over many years, is one candle is lit on the first night of
Hanukkah, two for the second night, and so on, until all eight candles are lit.

Because many Jews live in predominately Christian societies, over time Hanukkah has become much more festive and Christmas-like. Today, Jewish children usually receive gifts for Hanukkah - often one gift for each of the eight nights of the holiday.

**Hanukkah Traditions:**

Every community has its own unique Hanukkah traditions, but there are some traditions that are almost universally practiced. They are lighting of the hanukkiyah, spinning the dreidel, and eating fried foods.

[Link to Hanukkah Traditions: www.onug.us]
Lighting the hanukkiyah: Every year it is customary to commemorate the miracle of the Hanukkah oil by lighting candles on a hanukkiyah. The hanukkiyah is lit every night for eight nights. Most now have 9 candles, the center one usually always being lit to provide light continuously while the other eight are being lit. Tradition also suggests that the menorah be placed in a window closest to the street where it can remind those who pass by of this miracle of God. [www.onug.us](http://www.onug.us)

Spinning the dreidel: A popular Hanukkah game involves spinning the dreidel, which is a four-sided top with Hebrew letters written on each side; and Gelt, which are chocolate coins covered with tin foil and are part of this game.

Eating fried foods: Because Hanukkah celebrates the miracle of oil, it is traditional to eat fried foods such as latkes and sufganiyot during the holiday. Latkes are pancakes made out of potatoes and onions, which are fried in oil and then served with applesauce. Sufganiyot (singular: sufganiyah) are jelly-filled donuts that are fried and sometimes dusted with confectioners' sugar before eating.

The Biblical Significance of Hanukkah: [www.onug.us](http://www.onug.us)

At the beginning of our study today, we looked at Christ’s example of His keeping this man-made holiday in the winter (John 10:22-23).

Jesus’ example shows us - that it is not wrong to take part in certain celebrations, if and when those celebrations do not have Pagan origins; and if and when they DO NOT violate God’s laws!

Originally, the Jews celebrated Hanukkah as a tradition, then by ancient civil law as a national holiday; not a religious one. However, over time, it evolved much like the Pagan Winter Solstice (now Christ mass) into a commercialized and religious extravaganza, adopting many Christmas customs.

Our modern day (Hallmark Card Store & Retail Sales oriented) society presents several commercialized additional “holidays” that
obedient Christians (Deuteronomy 12:1-4, 28-32) can still observe.

"Never throughout history has a man who lived a life of ease, left a name worth remembering!"

- President Theodore Roosevelt

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TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!!

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Holidays that we can keep: www.onug.us

A few examples would be Father’s Day, Mother’s Day, Thanksgiving Day, and American Independence Day. The key is to keep God’s Sabbaths Holy (Exodus 31:12-18) and not to use Pagan practices and Pagan Holy Days (now called “holidays”) as replacements or additions to how God Commands His children to worship Him. Holidays are man-made celebrations, some of which can be used to give Thanks to our Creator God, as in the case of the American Thanksgiving Day. They are not a replacement for or substitute for what God has ordained as Holy, and perpetual (never-ending) throughout our generations (Zechariah 14:16-19, Isaiah 66:23-24, Revelation 22:14-16)!

Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights (no connection to James 1:17), or “the dedication”; was first connected with the cleansing of the Temple by Judas Maccabeus after Antiochus Epiphanes desecrated it in 167 B.C. This would set the stage for a later desecration of the altar, more than two thousand years later (See Daniel 8:1-27). Christians must understand the significance of the events leading up to the first Hanukkah, in order to understand what will happen again; “for it shall be for many days” (Daniel 8:26) yet into our future, as well!

The Abomination of Desolation: www.onug.us

The prophet Daniel called it “the abomination that makes desolate” (Daniel 12:11). Jesus told us to look for armies surrounding Jerusalem as a sign that this desolation was close at hand (Luke 21:20-24). When the desecration happens, it will signify the start of three and a half years of great tribulation, at the end of which Christ will again allow the world’s armies to gather at Jerusalem, at the triumphant return of Christ (Zechariah 14:1-9).

Jesus also tells us that this abomination will desecrate the altar, or holy place, just like Daniel said, and that these things would be advance warning signs to God’s people who were watching for
these things to happen – to flee (Matthew 24:15 / Mark 13:14)! God always warns His People (Revelation 1:1-3)! He will show us what to watch for and what to pray for (Luke 21:36, Matthew 24:42-44, 11:27 / Revelation 1:1-3)!!

As in the days of the Syrian-Greek emperor Antiochus (167 B.C.), God will again allow Satan to desecrate an altar that God considers Holy to Himself, in the last days (Daniel 12:11-13). Satan’s human prince and false religious leader will again be given power to rule, “that any observance of the Laws of God are an offense punishable by death” (Revelation 13:15-18, 8-9). God will measure His spiritual “temple” (the New Testament Church) or those who follow him (Daniel 5:27, Job 31:6, Proverbs 16:2, 21:2, 24:12, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 / Ephesians 2:19-22). He will take some of His Body of believers to a place of safety for three and one half years; the rest or the luke warm believers will have to go though the great tribulation, and die as martyrs (Matthew 10:39, 16:25, 25:1-13, Mark 8:35, Luke 9:24, 14:26, 17:33, John 12:25, Revelation 3:1-22, 7:1-17). God will be faithful to humanity throughout this terrible time and will leave two witnesses to proclaim God’s Truth during the last three and one half years of Satan’s reign on this earth (Revelation 10:1-11, 11:1-19, 12:1-17).

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Do YOU Understand Jesus Christ’s Olivet Prophecy? Most Of The World Does NOT! Now YOU Can!!!

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The last three years of human history will be the worst in all of previous history; but God will cut those days short for the sake of His Elect! (Revelation 13:1-7 / 2 Peter 3:1-18 / 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9 / Matthew 24:21-22 / Luke 21:23-24).

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One Nation Under God Ministries Bible Study series on The King of the North, The Beast of Revelation, and The Abomination of Desolation; will TEACH YOU what Jesus Christ Said His Church needed to KNOW and DO before His Return! Learn to Get Ready for The King’s Second Coming with this Amazing Bible Study! www.onug.us

God will deliver those who obediently serve Him from the terrible times to come (Revelation 8:13). Our Lord, Jesus Christ, has told us specifically what to do to avoid being caught in this snare. (Luke 21:34-35, Matthew 24:35-51). God’s people will be
keeping His commanded Feast Days, they will be watching on the Feast of Trumpets, as Christ told them to! (Revelation 3:10-13, Matthew 24:14, John 17:6-20, 2 Timothy 2:12, 2 Peter 2:9). No matter what happens to us, God’s Word tells us Christ will never leave us; even unto death, that we may receive the Crown He has in store for us! (Revelation 2:10-11, 20:6, 5:9-10).

Hanukkah is an ancient celebration of God rewarding and sustaining His people. God does not change (Malachi 3:6 / Hebrews 13:8); that same God is with us today (John 14:23). If we will faithfully stay upon the path, chosen for us by God, we will receive a very Great reward indeed (John 8:51 / Matthew 25:19-23, 29). Let us celebrate with our Jewish brothers and sisters, this time of giving God Praise and Thanks; for His never-ending Mercy and Blessings. Let us also remember solemnly - to be vigilant and sober in the work the Lord has given us to do, both now and in the troubling times ahead (1 Peter 5:1-11)!!

Join us next week as Learn about what The Star of Bethlehem really was; just in time for when the world will twist this Sign of God into something it is NOT, and use it to celebrate an Ancient Pagan Holiday, they now call “Christ Mass”!!! Then we will continue to Study Biblical Prophecy, and build upon our Study of Jesus Christ’s Olivet Warnings! We will Learn what Jesus Taught us about How To Use Biblical Prophecy to identify WHO in our modern world, qualifies Scripturally as The King of the North, The Beast of Revelation; and what the Abomination of Desolation that Jesus warned us about, REALLY is - or will be, in the very Last Days BEFORE Jesus Returns (Luke 21:35-36)!!! www.onug.us

We are honored that you joined us today, in the Study of God’s Word! We hope to have you back with us again next week, and that you will continue to share what you have learned here, with others – at home, at work, and in your neighborhood (Matthew 28:18-20 / Mark 16:15-20)! May our Great God, Bless you and keep you, until then – in Jesus’ Name!!!

- submitted by Pastor R. C. Brown III
One Nation Under God Ministries is Preparing The Brides of Christ (Matthew 25:1-13), and this world (Mark 16:15-20), for The Return of Jesus; One Bible Study At A Time! Join Them!

JESUS IS LORD!!!

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"But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one" (John 10:26-30).

Christians must learn to read the Bible, interpret the scriptures according to Biblical principles (Isaiah 28:10, 13), and begin to apply the precepts they learn
in their walk with God. Individual study is essential; coupled with fellowship times of group study, worship, and discussions of personal insights and observations.

We strive, each Saturday, to foster an open and welcoming atmosphere where Spirit led confirmation, clarification, questions, and correction can be made in the fellowship of other students of God’s Word.

One Nation Under God Ministries (www.onug.us) is working to unify the body of Christ in the worship of God the Father, in the way Jesus showed us to - in Spirit and in Truth! We strive to promote rediscovery of American History, and renew in current generations the Vision and the Covenant of our Founding Fathers.

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“And when He had called unto Him His twelve disciples, He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease... And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat” – Jesus Christ (Matthew 10:1, 7-10).

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The Refreshing, Hope FULL, Word of God? Send us their name and address, and we will mail them our weekly Bible Studies to them -Free of cost or postage!!!

A Tremendous ‘Thank You’ to those of you who have partnered with us already, to help offset mailing and printing costs; and increase our ability to reach those who are incarcerated with The Good News of God’s Coming Kingdom! (Matthew 25:31-46).

Have YOU Been BLESSED by these Studies of The Word of God? IF SO, Prayerfully consider joining us, so that we can make an EVEN GREATER IMPACT in this world, BEFORE The Return of Jesus Christ!!!

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