

# The Feast Of Dedication

Sunday AM 12/05/21

## Introduction:

**John 10:22** *Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter.* The origins of this feast was during the 400 years between Malachi and **Matthew 1**. Today is known by the name “Hanukkak” which means dedication. Prophecy in **Daniel 11. Daniel 11:29** *"At the appointed time he shall return and go toward the south; but it shall not be like the former or the latter. 30 "For ships from Cyprus shall come against him; therefore he shall be grieved, and return in rage against the holy covenant, and do damage. So he shall return and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant. 31 "And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation. 32 "Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. 33 "And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering.*

### I) History of Hanukkah

#### A) Empires controlling Judea.

1. Judea part of the Ptolemaic Empire (Egypt) until 200 BC
2. King Antiochus III of Syria defeats Egypt
3. Judea part of the Seleucid Empire (Syria)
4. Antiochus III allows the Jews to “live according to their ancestral customs”
5. 176 BC Antiochus IV Epiphanes invades Judea.
6. A group of Hellenistic Jews in Jerusalem are expelled in 170 BC
7. They want Antiochus IV to recapture Jerusalem.
8. The king being thereto disposed beforehand, complied with them, and came upon the Jews with a great army, and took their city by force, and slew a great multitude of those that favored Ptolemy, and sent out his soldiers to plunder them without mercy. He also spoiled the temple, and put a stop to the constant practice of offering a daily sacrifice of expiation for three years and six months. — The Jewish War[42]

- a. Antiochus builds an altar to Zeus in the temple, orders pigs to be sacrificed on the altar.
- b. Certain Jews goes along with the abomination and desecration of the temple which starts a revolt.

**B) Judas Maccabees, 164 BC**

- 1. Leads a group of about 3000 against Antiochus IV.
  - a. Antiochus has 5000 footmen and 1000 calvary.
  - b. Judas encourages his men by reminding them of what God did at the Red Sea.
- 2. Second battle Antiochus has 60,000 men with 5,000 calvary. /
  - a. Judas – remember Jonathan and his armorbearer against the Philistines.
 

“O my fellow soldiers, no other time remains more opportune than the present for courage and contempt of dangers; for if you now fight manfully, you may recover your liberty, which as it is a thing of itself agreeable to all men, so it proves to be to us more desirable, by its affording us the liberty of worshipping God.” Antiquities of the Jews, Book 12, chapter 7, section 3. b. Judas and his men defeat Antiochus’ army and goes into Jerusalem.
- 3. They cleanse the temple and rededicate it to God. 161 BC

**II) Dedication Application**

**A) Taking back what belongs to God**

- 1. God created everything good in **Genesis 1 and 2**.
- 2. Satan came, tempted man and sin entered the world.
- 3. Jesus came to take back to conquer the power of sin and death.
 

***2 Corinthians 4:3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.***
- 4. Satan is the god of this world, the prince of air.

**Ephesians 2:1** And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, **2** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, **3** among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

5. Satan is trying to control this world but we were made to serve God.

**Galatians 6:1** Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. **2** Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

6. When a brother goes into sin, we are to restore such a one. We have the power to restore.

**Matthew 18:14** "Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

**Matthew 18:15** "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. **16** "But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' **17** "And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

7. It is not God's will for us to perish.
8. We cannot force anyone to obey God but we are to have the courage to take the message to those in sin.

**James 5:19** Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, **20** let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

**B) Dedicating our temple.**

**2 Corinthians 6:16** And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall

*be My people." 17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." 18 "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty." 19 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

1. Get sin out of our lives.

**James 1:22** *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. 26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. 27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.*

2. We are to examine ourselves as we read the Bible. Mirrors in the 1<sup>st</sup> century were not as good as ours. One had to make an effort to really see themselves.
  - a. Hold your tongue
  - b. Be unstained by sin
  - c. doers of the word
  - d. consideration of others

**James 4:1** *Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the*

***world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? 6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.***

3. Friendship with the world – a political alliance
4. Our alliance is to be with God, not the world.

### **Conclusion:**

Shortly before the revolt of [Judas Maccabeus](#) (2 Maccabees 8), [Antiochus IV Epiphanes](#) arrested a mother and her seven sons, and tried to force them to eat [pork](#). One of the brothers said, on behalf of everyone, that even if they were all to die, they would not break the law. The angry king ordered to heat up the pans and [cauldrons](#), and he ordered the first brother to have his tongue cut off, the skin to be [removed](#) from the head and the ends of the [limbs cut off](#) – All this was happening in front of the rest of the brothers and mother, who, in the meantime, encouraged each other to passively resist the tormentors' demands. When the first martyr was inert and still breathing, Epiphanes ordered him to be thrown into a [hot frying pan](#). When he died, the next one was brought in and the [skin was stripped](#) from his head along with his hair. Each of the seven brothers endured the same torture. The torment of the sons was watched by their tenacious and rather stoic mother, who had lost all her sons.

The narrator mentions that the mother "was the most remarkable of all, and deserves to be remembered with special honour. She watched her seven sons die in the space of a single day, yet she bore it bravely because she put her trust in the Lord.

Keep purifying your souls, be dedicated to serving God.