

CHANUKAH - חנוכה
FEAST OF DEDICATION

CHANUKAH

- John 10:22
- Meaning: Dedication or Consecration
- Terms:
 - Feast of Dedication
 - Festival of Lights (Hag Haorim)
- Hillel versus Shammai

HISTORY

- Daniel 8:9-14, 21-22 & 11:21-35
- Greek Worldview vs. Hebraic Worldview
 - Greek: Human supremacy (god in image of man)
 - Hebraic: God's supremacy (man in image of God)

History (cont.)

- 198 BCE: Armies of the Seleucid King Antiochus III (Antiochus the Great) oust Ptolemy V from Judea and Samaria.
- 175 BCE: Antiochus IV (Epiphanes) ascends the Seleucid throne. [Theos Epiphanes (God Manifest) or Epimanes (The Mad One)]
- 168 BCE: Under the reign of Antiochus IV, the Temple is looted, Jews are massacred, and Judaism is outlawed.
 - Tactics against the Jewish people: Torah Study, Sabbath Observance, Circumcision, Family Values, New Month Celebrations

History (cont.)

- 167 BCE: Antiochus orders an altar to Zeus erected in the Temple. Mattathias, and his five sons John, Simon, Eleazar, Jonathan, and Judah lead a rebellion against Antiochus. Judah becomes known as Judah Maccabe (Judah The Hammer).
- 166 BCE: Mattathias dies, and Judah takes his place as leader. The Hasmonean Jewish Kingdom begins; It lasts until 63 BCE
- 164 BCE: The Jewish revolt against the Seleucid monarchy is successful. The Temple is liberated and rededicated (Hanukkah).

History (cont.)

- Temple Dedication: Miracle of the Oil
- Sources:
 - Daniel
 - 1st & 2nd Maccabees
 - Talmud: Shabbat 21

TRADITIONS

- Dates : 25 Kislev
- Chanukia
 - 9 Branches
 - Samash Candle: Servant Candle
- Gifts & Games
 - Dreidal
 - נס גדול היה שם (*Nes Gadol Haya Sham*, "A great miracle happened there")
 - נ ([Nun](#)), ג ([Gimel](#)), ה ([Hey](#)), ש ([Shin](#))
 - Gelt: Yiddish for “money”

Traditions (cont.)

- Foods
 - Latkes - לאטקע Potato Pancakes
 - Sufganiyot – סופגניה (jelly donuts- Israeli Jews)

SIGNIFICANCE

- Torah Readings
 - Offerings & Menorah: Numbers 7:1 – 8:4
 - Story of Joseph: Genesis 37:1 – 40:23
- Symbolic of Messiah
 - Light of the World: John 1:4-14 & Isaiah 9:2
 - Messiah Son of Joseph (Mashiach ben Yosef)
 - Luke 1: 26-33; Zechariah 9:9; Isaiah 53:6-7;
Matthew 27:50-51; Hebrews 6:19-20 & 10:19-22

APPLICATION

- Hanukkah Haggadah: “The purpose of the celebration of Hanukkah is to welcome the Messiah. Peace is the Messiah.”
 - Luke 2:14 – “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”
- Lights in the World:
 - Philippians 2:14-16 & 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6
- Ambassadors for Christ: 2nd Corinthians 5:20

Application (cont.)

- What Are We to Do in *Such a Time as This*?
 - Story of Chanukah is one of standing for God and against darkness
 - Ephesians 5:8-17