

First Baptist Poinciana
"All About Jesus"

Message 2 : Jesus in Hanukkah
Pastor Wayne Harrell, Senior Pastor

Historical Background:

This feast is also frequently called the Festival of Lights or the Feast of the Maccabees. But as mentioned in John 10, the word Hanukkah means “dedication.” On the Jewish calendar, Hanukkah begins on the evening of Kislev 25 and continues for eight days. On the Gregorian calendar (our modern calendar), it can start as early as late November, but generally coincides with the month of December. Hanukkah in 2021 runs from November 28 - December 6.

The “miracle” of the one-day supply of oil miraculously lasting eight days is first described in the Talmud (Jewish traditions written about AD 200–AD 500), which says that after the forces of Antiochus IV had been defeated and the Temple recovered, the Maccabees discovered that almost all of the ritual olive oil had been profaned. They found only a single container that was still sealed by the High Priest, with enough oil to keep the menorah in the Temple lit for only a day. They had no choice but to use it, yet it burned for eight days (until new oil was pressed and made ready.)

POINT: God is our Provider - Jehovah Jirah. (1 Kings 17:12-16)

1. FEAST OF DEDICATION = HANUKKAH (John 10:22-23)

- Jesus Celebrated this Temple feast/festival.
- It is a symbol of and Picture of Christ (pre-incarnate & incarnate)
- A time of kindling lights to remember the victories God has given.
- A time of feasting and rejoicing.

NOTES:

2. HANUKKAH IN JESUS' TIME.

- During Jesus' time of incarnation (John 1:14) the festival of lights main focus was: (a worship time together)
 - Singing
 - Going to the Temple to hear God's word.
 - Giving thanks to God for the freedom to Worship
 - Praising God for deliverance from enemies.
 - Lighting of candles and oil lamps.

3. THE REASON.

- John 10:22-23 is speaking for Hanukkah (the Dedication, and Lights)
- Jesus was in the temple to celebrate with other Jews.
- The time was centered around being where the presence of God dwelt.
- 2 Chronicles 20:9

There is a TRANSITION:

- Haggai 2:7-9 (prophetically speaks concerning the Temple)
- God shakes things up to get them right.
- Speaking of the “Restored Temple” being greater than all previous temples - this meaning that it can only come from one source and be one source - Jesus.
- This is a prophetic passage concerning the coming millennial temple that Jesus will rule all of the world from in Jerusalem.
- It will be greater because Jesus himself will be there.

There is a TRANSACTION: 1 Corinthians 3:16

- Once saved (trusting in Christ Jesus for salvation) we become the temple of God - and now, at the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit dwells within us.
- As the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit:
 - We sing, gather, worship, pray, and read scripture.
 - We celebrate the light of Christ Jesus that is within all believers.
 - Through Christ Jesus our broken destroyed temple (life) is restored through the victory of Jesus on the cross and His resurrection - defeating death and sin once and for all.

Through Christ - We are in the Light. (1 John 1:7)

Hanukkah remembers the miracle of a light (oil) outlasting its supply - But now we see through this picture of the oil and lamp, that the everlasting light (Christ Jesus) has come to the world in the incarnation (John 1:14) and Christ Jesus had two main objectives:

1. Luke 10:19 - To seek and save the lost
2. 1 John 3:8 - Defeat the work of Satan. (Prophetic of Genesis 3:15)

The Light Has Come:

- Isaiah 60:1-2 & Luke 2:9 parallel :
- The light of the world has come to heal us and set us free from sin.
- When Christ Jesus came - the Glory of God shone all around.
- When Christ enters our life - The Glory of God will shine through us.

NOTES:

4. JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD AS LIGHT (John 12:46)

- The connection to Hanukkah (Feast of Dedication) was made by religious leaders. (John 10:22-23)
- Jesus the Light of the world was in the presence of the celebration of light and dedication.
- Jesus plainly tells everyone in attendance at the Feast of Dedication exactly who He is, John 10:30 “I and my father are one”. Making it absolutely clear that in the kenosis / hypostatic union of Christ - there was no loss of Christ Jesus’ perfect deity.

The lighting of the menorah at Hanukkah not only speaks about God’s past deliverances -but- also that the Perfect light that was to come, and now is - Jesus the Christ; Messiah, Yeshua.

The name of Jesus is above every name (Phil. 2:10-11) and His name in relation is vital -

Yeshua is a combination name:

Ya - Aramaic abbreviation for Yahweh

yasha - meaning to deliver / rescue

We needed to be rescued (Saved) from the darkness - our own sin. Yeshua - Jesus Christ came to be the Light leading to Salvation through and in Him, and Him alone.

The Light of Christ has come to end all Darkness. (John 3:16-21)

- Because of God’s great love for us, He sent Jesus (God the Son)
- Jesus did not come to condemn us - but to set us free
- We must believe, and be set free, delivered from darkness (sin)
- John 3:19-21
 - The Light has come - Meaning Jesus
 - We must repent of Sin and come to the Light of Christ.
 - Only God -through- Christ Jesus accomplishes our salvation. (Eph.2:8)
 - We are called out of the Darkness - (1 Peter 2:9)

NOTES:

5. WE ARE CALLED TO BE LIVING MENORAHS.

- Each of us, as followers of Christ are called to be a type of living menorah. Just as we are a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16)
- We were called to be “lights within the world, so that others might see”
- We were delivered from darkness to light - the Light of Christ Jesus.
- We received a “Light Transfusion”
- The Light of Christ in our lives must shine for all the world to see (Matt.5:16)

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT:

1. Hanukkah reminds us that our light has come: Jesus Christ, bringing deliverance from sin, shame, and freely offering us eternal life / salvation to all who call on His name, confessing their sins. (Romans 10:9,13; John 8:12)
2. We are made Temples of God, by the Holy Spirit, The Holy Spirit lives within each believer (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19)
3. Our hope is found in the Light of Christ. (Ready to witness)

Therefore can we who have been delivered, redeemed, providentially sustained, and commissioned to be living lights do anything other than glorify God?

The Undying Flame. As we make a mad rush toward the Bethlehem manger in anticipation of Christmas, let us pause for a moment at the menorah and contemplate its meaning. When we look at it, we see a beautiful portrait of our Messiah.

- Each candle is specially lit by the *shamash*, the servant candle.
- Scripture teaches Jesus is God’s *shamash*—the servant of the Lord (Matt. 12:18, Phil. 2:6-11).
- And this *shamash* is the Light of the world. He is the true Light that came into the world and illuminates us all. (By the Gospel & Salvation)
- He is the eternal and undying flame, which spreads its light one candle at a time. “*I AM the Light of the world*” - Jesus

CLOSING QUESTIONS:

Will you allow the Light of Christ to come into your life today and deliver you from the darkness of sin?

Will you; believer, follower of Christ - allow the Light of Christ to shine yet brighter in your life - pointing others to the life saving power of Christ Jesus? Will you re-center your life on Christ and the great commission given to all believers to Go Make Disciples of all nations?

“Arise, shine, for your Light has come, and the glory of the Lord shines over you” Isa. 60:1