



The Zion Letter

The Monthly Newsletter of For Zion's Sake Ministries, Inc.
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Hanukkah, the Millennial Temple, and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Did you know there is only one new holiday mentioned in the New Testament? Can you guess what it is? No, it's not Christmas or Easter, it's Hanukkah! John 10:22 says, ***“At that time the Feast of the Dedication (Hanukkah) took place at Jerusalem; It was winter, and Yeshua/Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon.”*** That's right, the Feast of Dedication is really Hanukkah. Hanukkah means dedication in Hebrew. Perhaps somebody translated it as “Feast of Dedication” because they didn't want you to celebrate the New Testament Feast of Hanukkah? What is a Feast of Dedication, you might ask? Some will say, surely it's an Old Testament Feast, but it's not; Hanukkah isn't “in the law”. Hanukkah didn't begin until some two hundred years after the Old Testament time period ended. In fact, the only mention of it is in the New Testament. So why don't Christians celebrate this New Testament holiday that Jesus celebrated? We'll look at this question, and we'll discuss the Hanukkah connection to the Millennial Temple, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, His Bride, and more; read on!

What is Hanukkah?

The Greco-Syrian tyrant, Antiochus Epiphanes, was a descendant of Seleucus, who was one of Alexander the Great's four generals. After Alexander's death, his empire was divided into four parts and given to his four generals. One portion included Syria, Media, Lebanon and Israel, which Antiochus Epiphanes inherited. In 168 B.C., after a failed attempt by Antiochus to conquer Egypt, he headed home to Syria, but first stopped

in Jerusalem where he took his frustrations out on the Jews. He desecrated the Temple of Israel by sacrificing a pig on the Holy altar, and let the light of the seven branch menorah (lampstand) go out. Antiochus intentionally tried to humiliate the Jews. He banned the Torah (Bible), circumcision, observation of the Sabbath, and all forms of Jewish worship. He even sent his soldiers from town to town to build pagan altars and enlisted local Jewish priests to sacrifice pigs (unclean animals under the Law of Moses) throughout Israel, forcing the people to eat the sacrificed pig, and forcing them to bow down to an image of Zeus.



A rebellion began in the town of Modi'in near Jerusalem. The Syrians had a massive army compared to tiny Israel, but a Jewish militia, led by Judah Maccabee and his brothers, succeeded in defeating the mighty Syrians. It took Judah Maccabee's band of brothers three years to the day to defeat the Syrians, from the day when the Syrians had first desecrated the

Temple in the winter, on the 25th of the Biblical month of Kislev (the tenth month). After this miraculous defeat, the Jews began to clean the Temple, to repair it, and to consecrate and rededicate the holy altar that Antiochus had defiled with a pig. Another miracle of Hanukkah is that the Jews only had enough consecrated olive oil to light the lampstand for one day, but the oil burned for eight days until fresh oil could be consecrated; this is the most well-known miracle of Hanukkah.

Why did Jesus celebrate Hanukkah?

The story of Hanukkah wasn't written in the Law of

Moses. So why did Yeshua walk about eighty miles from Galilee to the Temple in Jerusalem to celebrate it, especially during the cold (30 – 40 degree nights) of a Jerusalem winter? **First of all, without Hanukkah, there would never have been a Messiah.** Antiochus, the Greco-Syrian King was out to destroy the Jews and their homeland. Had he succeeded there would never have been a Joseph and Mary, a little town of Bethlehem, a baby Jesus, a temple or a city of Jerusalem to bring him to where he was dedicated. There would have been no Anna the prophetess, or Simeon, no three wise kings to visit, or the shepherds in the fields. Fortunately, like every other tyrant dictator who has attempted to destroy the Jewish people and homeland, Antiochus failed. The victory of Hanukkah and of the Jews over tyranny led to the birth of the Messiah and the fulfillment of prophecy.

Making Hanukkah simple for Christians and all believers:

I have been watching the series about English monarchy called “The Crown”, and I never tire of seeing the grandeur of royal weddings and all the intrigue surrounding these global events. They are so significant that the whole world watches when they happen. This gives us a sense of Yeshua’s future wedding on the world stage. Where do traditional Christian or Jewish weddings take place? If you answered, “in a church or a synagogue”, you are correct. Some churches are small and some are huge, the Vatican is perhaps the largest of all churches! In the same way traditional and Messianic Jews tend to get married in synagogues. Some synagogues are small and some hold thousands of people! The Temple at Jerusalem was the greatest synagogue of all in its day.

The Bible speaks of a millennial reign of the Messiah on earth (See Revelation 20: 2 &7). During that period there will be a temple spoken of in Ezekiel 40-46. Ezekiel 43 describes the a future temple which has not yet been built. **It is a prophetic temple for the Millennium, yet after the Millennium, there will be a new heaven and a new earth with no temple (Rev 21:22).** Why will there be a need for the Millennial/Ezekiel Temple? **Perhaps the main purpose of the Ezekiel Temple is to host a rather large Jewish wedding,** and I think that’s why God will also reestablish the Levitical priesthood and the sacrificial system. There will even be some Gentiles who serve as Levites (See Isaiah 66:21). **Many people ask why would God bring back the sacrificial system?**

Answer: Who else is going to cook the wedding feast, for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb? (See Revelation 19:17 -18). The Marriage Supper of the Lamb occurs in Revelation 19 immediately after the return of Jesus, the King of the Jews (MT 27:37). That’s right, Yeshua returns, according to Revelation, after all the fireworks, seal judgments, bowl judgments, and trumpet judgments. Many believe that Yeshua takes His bride up to the heavens for a floating wedding in the clouds; however, there is no Scripture to support that idea. It is true, according to the Messiah himself (**John 6:40**)**“That everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the Last day”.** **1Thessalonians 4:15** says, **“For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, WILL NOT PRECEDE THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP (DIED) For the Lord Himself will descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the sound of the Trump of God. And the dead in Messiah will rise first, then we who are alive and remain will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.”**

It is quite clear from the Scripture above that the resurrection of the dead on **The Last Day** precedes the **Harpazo (the catching away or “The Rapture”)**; however notice there is no mention of a wedding in the air. In fact, if you read Zechariah 12, 14 and Revelation 19-20 you see the Lord returns from heaven to earth along with His holy ones, but there is no mention of a wedding in the sky on the last day. If I’m right, the main purpose in building the Millennial Temple is for the Messiah to have a beautiful altar and magnificent house of worship and banquet hall for His bride and the wedding feast! Glory!

The Antichrist Comparison:

In 2Thessalonians 2:1-5, we are told about the coming anti-messiah who sets himself up in the pre-millennial temple. Orthodox Jews are presently soliciting enormous amounts of Christian money to help build this temple!



The anti-messiah will stop the sacrifice after three and a half years and usher in the abomination of desolation. It is then that having fooled the world and the Jews, this anti-messiah will be rec-

ognized for who he really is. He shall require the Jews and others to bow down and worship him as God. Sound familiar?

Remember Antiochus Epiphanes who set himself up in the Temple as God back in 168 B.C. and caused what the book of Maccabees refers to as “The abomination of desolation”? He banned Judaism, sacrificed a pig on the holy altar, forced Jews to eat swine’s flesh, and bow down to idols of Zeus; that is until God raised up the Maccabees to deliver Israel and free the Temple in just three years! The Hanukkah story is a foreshadow of the coming antichrist, but this time it won’t be Antiochus, and the deliverer won’t be Judah Maccabee, but it will be the Lord Yeshua the Messiah Himself who will destroy the beast and the false prophet (see Revelation 19:19-20). So are you seeing why Jesus celebrated Hanukkah (God’s Biblical winter holiday shown in John 10:22)? Yeshua is the fulfillment of Hanukkah, He is the one who fulfills the prophecy of the Hanukkah story that took place 165 years before He was even born!

The Altar and the Wedding:

Where does a traditional bride stand when she gets married? At the altar of course! If the “*Great Supper of God*” or “*The Marriage Supper of the Lamb*” (*Rev 19:17, Rev 19:9*) is to take place in the Millennial Temple, then perhaps that is why the largest construction project on earth occurs when Yeshua returns (read Zechariah 14:4). I propose that Yeshua Himself will return with His holy ones, defeat all those from the nations who fought against Jerusalem and Israel, and will supernaturally rebuild the Temple for the Millennium on that day. Why will He do this? Because He is going to make sure there is a Millennial Temple, complete with priests, Levites, sacrifices, and a consecrated, undefiled altar where He can enter into vows with His Bride! Just as the Maccabees cleansed and repaired the Temple 165 years before the birth of the Messiah, Yeshua will come back not just to repair, but to build the thousand year temple of Ezekiel 40-46.

Conclusion:

I believe that I have made a good case for everything I have written here, using Scripture and the story of Hanukkah as much as possible to support what I say. We can study these well known Bible passages over and over, but until God gives a revelation and puts

the pieces of the puzzle together, then well-intentioned preachers and Bible teachers tend to send us all up in the clouds with no real or plausible explanation for why there will be a Millennial temple, or why there will be a return of the sacrificial system. You cannot understand the end times prophecy without having a Jewish understanding of Hanukkah. That’s why God sent me to you: raised in Judaism, instructed by rabbis, and now filled with the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit), I’m a born-again Rabbi for Jesus to help you make sense of the things that formerly made no sense. I am thankful for those of you who are blessed by the words of the Zion Letter. If you are, feel free to copy or request copies from us and share with friends. Encourage them to sign up for the Zion Letter! I encourage you to like us on Facebook and visit our services, like our upcoming Community Hanukkah service on Friday, December 20th at 6:30 PM. Bring your friends or your Bible study group! Thank you for your prayers and for those of you who support this ministry. Standing with Israel begins at the local level. Whether you celebrate Hanukkah or Christmas, we wish you a blessed holiday season with family with friends and a healthy and prosperous New Year!



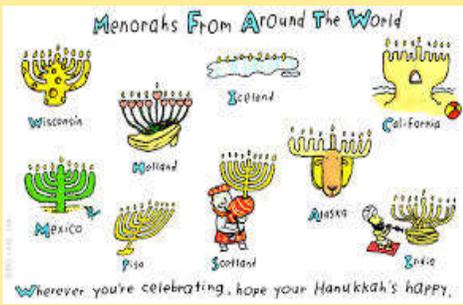
In His great love,
Rabbi Joseph and Dawn Bell

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