

December 8, 2019

Hanukkah: Feast of Dedication

December 22, 2019 is Hanukkah which is known as the Jewish “Festival of Lights” and as the “Feast of Dedication.” The Hebrew word for **dedication** is **Chanukah** (Hanukkah). King Solomon built and dedicated the **first Temple** around 960 BC and approximately **400 years** later Israel was taken captive by the Babylonians and the Temple was destroyed. After 70 years King Cyrus released the Jews to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild their Temple. The **second Temple** was restored and dedicated in 516 BC. It has been **400 years** since America was dedicated to God; what is next?

Around 334 BC **Alexander the Great** invaded from the West, and the Temple was again in shambles, but not totally destroyed. Alexander the Great suddenly died and his kingdom was divided up into 4 kingdoms. Around **167 BC**, out of the **Seleucid Empire**, (one of the 4 kingdoms) there arose an aggressive king, **Antiochus IV Epiphanes**. Antiochus attacked Jerusalem and massacred young and old killing women and children. In three days eighty thousand were lost, many through violent-torturous deaths. Antiochus forced the Jews to abandon their beliefs and adopt Greek culture as he dedicated the Jewish Temple to **Zeus**. Faithful Jews refused and many more were killed, but some lived.

In 167 BC, Mattathias and his sons began the **Maccabean Revolt** against Antiochus and by 165 BC the enemy was driven out by **Judas Maccabaeus**. The Temple was cleansed from the pagan defilement and in 164 BC the decision was made to rededicate the Temple. Unfortunately, there was only enough **holy olive oil** to light the golden lampstand (the menorah) for one day, but the dedication was to last 8 days. The decision was made to light the menorah and it miraculously burned for 8 days. Much of this information is recorded in the **2nd Book of Maccabees** and was prophesied in **Daniel** chapter 8 and 11 (Americanminute.com 12-3-18).

John 10:22-23 *Now it was the **Feast of Dedication** in Jerusalem, and it was winter. 23 And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch. Over 2000 years ago the **Light of the World** stepped into the Temple to celebrate the Festival of Lights.*

John 1:6-9 *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the **Light**, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that **Light**, but was sent to bear witness of that **Light**. 9 That was the true **Light** which gives light to **every man** coming into the world.*

John 3:19-21 *And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light**, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who **does the truth comes to the light**, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." Walking in the light; being transparent, confessing our faults and purifying our hearts.*

Matt 5:14-16 *"**You are the light of the world**. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 **Let your light so shine before men**, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Tell them, "God loves you!"*

Those who have humbled themselves, repented and purified their heart, were anointed with holy oil and fasted, gave to the poor and call the Sabbath a “delight” serving in the House of the Lord, this is **YOUR promise**:

Isa 58:8,9 *Then **your light** shall break forth like the morning, **Your healing** shall spring forth speedily, And **your righteousness** shall go before you; The **glory of the Lord** shall be **your rear guard**. 9 Then **you** shall call, and the Lord will answer; **You** shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.' This is priceless; amidst the trouble hearing God voice and comfort.*

Isa 58:10-11 *...Then **your light** shall dawn in the darkness, And **your darkness shall be as the noonday**. 11 The Lord will **guide you continually**, And satisfy **your soul in drought**, And **strengthen your bones**;*

A Decree Over LSC:

Just like the Temple being cleansed by the Macabees and restored to righteous worship casting out Zeus and pagan worship, **you have restored righteous worship to God's Temple** and have purified **your temple**, for you are a temple of the Holy Spirit. You have cast down the unholy worship of **secular music and sexual immorality**. You are not ashamed of the Gospel, of **expressive-unashamed worship**. You have entered into God's Throne Room and His glory is on your face. You have been anointed with “holy oil” and your horn is filled with fresh oil. You are a wise virgin and your lamp will not run out of oil. No matter how great the darkness, it cannot overtake you! You shine bright, you light up the room! You walk in the glory of God! We carry the Morning Star Authority mantle. Worthy is the Lamb!

Life Song Church: Living the Power of Praise!