

Hanukkah

The Miracle of Israel and You



Scripture

- **Genesis 22:16-18**

By Myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.

- **Genesis 7:6-7**

For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but because the Lord loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the Lord brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you

Other Scriptures

- John 10:22
- Genesis 22:18
- Deut. 7:6,7
- Genesis 12:3
- Gal. 3:14
- Romans 11:15
- Zech. 8:23

Main Points

- The only mention of Hanukkah in the Bible is in the New Testament (John 10:22)
 - The Feast of Dedication
 - Dedication in English is Hanukkah in Hebrew
 - Refers to the rededication of the temple after the Maccabees reclaimed it from the Greco-Assyrians. (164 BC)
- The time between the Old and New Testaments is called the Intertestamental period. Hanukkah didn't happen until after the Old Testament period.
- Why is Hanukkah a miracle?
 - There was only enough kosher, holy oil to burn for one day, but it burned supernaturally for eight days.
 - The menorah symbolizes that a miracle took place.
 - Hanukkah is a season of miracles!
 - A small band of Jewish soldiers drove out the huge Greco-Assyrian army.
- Israel is a nation of miracles, recognized by others.

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- Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion said, "*A Jew that does not believe in miracles is not a realist.*"
- Mark Twain wrote in 1899, "*The Egyptians, the Babylonians and the Persians rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded and passed away; the Greek and Roman followed and made a vast noise, and now they're gone. The Jew saw them all, beat them all...all things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?*"
- Winston Churchill said, "*Some people like the Jews, and some people do not. But no thoughtful man can doubt the fact that they are, beyond all question, the most formidable and most remarkable race which has ever appeared in the world.*"
- Israel as a nation has a miraculous history of surviving, thriving, and blessing.
 - Israel became a nation on May 14, 1948 and survived an immediate attack by six nations around them; subsequent wars followed and they survived.
 - The Jews are only 1/5 of 1% of the world's population, yet they have excelled disproportionately in every area beyond what is natural. Today, all the nations of the earth are blessed by Abraham's seed, because of his obedience at Mount Moriah.
- When you come into alignment with God's heart for the Jewish people, the blessing that is on them will come upon you. (Gen. 12:3)
- There is a blessing coming to you as Jewish people come to Jesus.
- Hanukkah is one of many examples of God's supernatural hand upon the Jewish people.

Discussion Questions

1. Briefly summarize the celebration of Hanukkah in your own words. Does the Feast of Dedication have more understanding for you following this teaching? How so?
2. Were you surprised by the long list of blessings that Jewish scientists, doctors, businessmen and women, inventors, etc., have brought to the world? What would the world be like today without the Jewish nation's contributions and influence?
3. What are some ways that you can bless Israel right now? Does God's promise of blessings for those who bless Israel encourage you to be involved in some way to care for the Jews and their nation? Begin now to pray. How can you contribute to the salvation of God's chosen?
4. Rabbi Schneider is one of the blessings we receive from Israel. Take a moment to pray for Cynthia and Rabbi and the whole DTJJ team. May God greatly reach the world through this messianic Jewish believer!