

Hanukkah

The Feast of Dedication



Scriptures

- **John 10:22-25**
22At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; 23it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon. 24The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” 25Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe...

Other Scriptures

- Matthew 5:13-16; 25:14-30
- Acts 1:8; 4:12
- Rev.2:7,11,26;3:5,12,21; and 21:7
- Eph. 6:12
- Psalm 18:34

Main Points

- Jesus announced that He was the Messiah during Hanukkah, which He celebrated.
- Hanukkah means dedication.
- Intertestamental-the time between the Old and New Testaments
- Israel lived in their land under the Greco-Assyrian rulers. There was heavy pressure to conform to the culture under leader Antiochus Epiphanes.
- Many Jews became like the foreign culture.
 - The idol worship and values of the culture became theirs.
 - The pagan soldiers came to the Jewish priest in Modine named Matathias and asked him to sacrifice a pig to a pagan god. When he refused, a fearful Jew compromised. Matathias slew the compromising Jew and this gave other Jewish believers courage— they rallied and drove out the soldiers.
- Maccabees means “Hammer”.
- These courageous Jews became known as the Maccabees because they were effective in warfare.
 - They mounted battles against the soldiers in different cities.
 - In 164 BC they recaptured the temple. They drove out the Greco Assyrians and re-consecrated the temple to God.
 - They found the Torah, but found the Menorah with only enough oil for one day burning. God caused the Menorah to miraculously burn for 8 days!
- Understanding Hanukkah is relevant for all believers.
 - The Jewish people were facing the dangers of assimilation or becoming like their pagan culture. Many did give in to the pressures.
- Many Christians today face the same kind of assimilation that the Israelites did in that day.
- The Word of God must be our standard.
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