

The Prophetic Mystery of Hannukah

This year on December 7th – 15th is what the Bible calls the “Festival of Dedication” or “Festival of Lights”. **Dedication in Hebrew = Hannukah**. I am sure that many of you have heard of Hannukah, but for those of you who haven't, it's a Jewish celebration that last for 8 days in the winter of the year falling in the Jewish month Kislev (usually December on the Gregorian calendar). During this time many Jewish families will exchange gifts every day and will light 1 candle every day on a special candle stick that has 9 branches - Hanukkiah. This is considered a nice, sweet, celebratory holiday that's filled with presents and treats. However, of all the holidays given by God, Hanukkah probably holds the most amazing revelation concerning the end times.

The Seven Feasts of Israel - All seven festivals are considered patterns for future events

- Passover
- Unleavened Bread
- First Fruits
- Pentecost
- Trumpets
- Atonement
- Tabernacles

Prophetic fulfillment:

- **Passover** – Jesus' crucifixion fulfilled Passover perfectly:

| <i>Exodus 12</i> | <i>New Testament</i> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Lamb taken into house on 10 Aviv | Jesus enters temple on 10 Aviv |
| Lamb w/out blemish (young male) | Pilate found no fault in him |
| Lamb examined four days | Jesus tested by leaders four days |
| Lamb slaughtered 14 Aviv | Jesus crucified 14 Aviv |
| Lamb killed at 3 pm (ninth hour) | Jesus died at 3 pm |

- **Unleavened Bread** – During this feast a Jewish family will take a loaf and wrap it in a special napkin and go bury it in ground for three days. Jesus was buried on the eve of Unleavened Bread, that same night the father of the house would bury the bread in the earth.
- **First Fruits** – Jesus arose from the dead and brought with him all the saints who had died in faith, He then moved them and paradise to the third heaven (Ephesians 4: 8). It just happens that the day Jesus arose was the beginning of First Fruits. Look at *1 Corinthians 15: 20*
- **Pentecost** - 50 days after Passover is the feast of Pentecost. Pentecost is “the birthday of the nation of Israel” according to Rabbis.
 - o God descended on Mt. Sinai with thunder, lightning and noise of a trumpet.
 - o God spoke to the people in an audible voice out of the midst of fire
 - o Jewish tradition says that God's voice issued forth as a flame and divided into tongues of fire
- **Trumpets** - In the fall of the year and on the first day of the Tishrei moon the trumpets are blown to announce Rosh Hashanah. This "**memorial of blowing of trumpets**" was instituted by Moses at Sinai approximately 3,500 years ago. It would come to be called the 'Feast of Trumpets'. It marks the Hebrew (civil) new year. 'Rosh Hashanah' means 'head of the year'. The **Feast of Trumpets** begins the "ten days of awe" which lead on to the "Day of Atonement" which is the most solemn day of the Hebrew calendar and the day when all accounts between YHVH/God and His covenant people are settled. Trumpets are also blown to call God's people to worship and to assembly in special times of national crisis and also in warfare.

- This will be the next event of prophecy hidden in the historical event of the Feast of trumpets
- The next major event of human history will be the catching away of the church (the rapture). I Thess. 4: 14-18
- **Atonement** - In a future fall season on the first day of the Tishrei moon an epic **feast of trumpets** will initiate Daniel's 70th week. Thus begins the final seven years of this age. The end-time dramas of the apocalypse will then begin. They will directly involve the church and Israel.
 - Seven years later, on the tenth day of Tishrei, at the very last day of 2555 the day time span comes the awesome **day of atonement**. It is the last day of this present evil age. This final day of reckoning is the day when all accounts between God and the men and women of this age are settled. This ends the final seven years of this era. The day of atonement is the final chance to repent. It is the last day for wayward mankind to come to God. The very next day the Day of the Lord will open up and the age of Messiah will begin. Christ/Messiah will return to judge the wicked. And then he will gather his elect. - mat.24:31
 - The Day of Atonement wraps up the final seven years of this age. It ends the period of God's determined dealings with his covenant people. The God of Israel intervenes in the history of the nations as their armies gather at Armageddon to threaten Jerusalem.
- **Tabernacles** – Represent the coming Kingdom Age when Christ will set up His Kingdom 1000 year reign from Jerusalem. He is coming to Tabernacle with man!

These are the “moadiem” – set calendar events created by God as signs for the people of God

What is interesting is that the greatest revelation concerning the last days in the Bible is actually woven within a holiday / festival that isn't necessarily an “appointed time” – Hanukkah! Within the mystery of this celebration is also the strategy for how to overcome the spirit of anti-Christ in the last days.

What is Hanukkah?

In the year 168 B.C.E., the Syrian king Antiochus Epiphanes sent his soldiers to Jerusalem. The Syrians desecrated the Temple, the holiest place for Jews at that time. Antiochus also abolished Judaism, outlawing the observance of Shabbat and the festivals, as well as circumcision. They confiscated the scriptures and burned them. Altars and idols were set up for the worship of Greek gods, and he offered Jews two options: conversion or death.

On the 25th day of the Hebrew month of *Kislev* in 168 B.C.E., the Temple was renamed for the Greek god Zeus and a pig was offered on the altar as dedication. A Jewish resistance movement – led by a priestly family known as the Hasmoneans, or Maccabees – developed, resisting the cruelty of Antiochus. The head of the family was Mattathias, an elderly man. His son, Judah, became the chief strategist and military leader of the resistance. Though outnumbered, Judah Maccabee and his fighters miraculously won two major battles, routing the Syrians decisively.

When they finally made their way back up to Jerusalem to the temple, they found the temple in total shambles. The Greeks had so desecrated the holy place of God that it was unrecognizable. It is hard to imagine this however, they had conducted acts of sexual morality, paganism, and every vile thing imaginable in the temple.

Judas Maccabee and his team began to clean the House of God. Once it was ready, they knew that they needed to dedicate it and to get it functioning again. However, the problem was that they needed to light the seven branched menorah but there was only enough oil that was unpolluted for one day. Over the years the story has developed that God stretched out this oil and made it last for eight days giving them time to make more oil that was pure and sanctified for temple use.

The books of the Maccabees made no mention of the legend concerning a small jar of oil that unexpectedly lasted for eight days. Only centuries after the Maccabees' defeat of the Syrians did the story of the jar of oil – which has come to be associated with Hanukkah – appear in the Talmud.

According to the legend, when the Maccabees entered the Temple and began to reclaim it from the Greeks, they immediately relit the ner tamid, which burned constantly in the Temple and has a parallel in our synagogues to this day. In the Temple, they found a single jar of oil, which was sufficient for only one day. The messenger who was sent to secure additional oil took eight days to complete his mission, and miraculously, the single jar of oil continued to burn until his return. The rabbis of the Talmud attributed the eight days of Hanukkah to the miracle of this single jar of oil.

Interesting fact – Hanukkah is only mentioned and celebrated in the New Testament by one individual! - Jesus

- Now Daniel prophesies about Hanukkah, but not the one mentioned in the inter-testamental period with the Maccabees.

John 10:22-26 - ²² Now it was the **Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter.** ²³ And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch. ²⁴ Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. ²⁶ But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep..."

- Here the light of the world enters the temple on the festival of lights and darkness of religion and doubt had once again filled the Temple.

The prophetic mystery concealed...

The story of Hanukkah centers around a man by the name of Antiochus who desecrated the temple. In the book of Daniel the prophet speaks about something called the abomination of desolation. This is a time when the Antichrist will go into the temple and declare himself God. Many have believed that to be the tribulation. That spoken of in Daniel and the Book of Revelation was fulfilled during the days of Antiochus and his abomination in the temple during the Maccabean period. However, I want to show you today that Antiochus was just a type and shadow of what is to come in the future.

Daniel alludes to Antiochus and asks how long is this going to be...

Daniel 12:7 - ⁷ And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a **time, times, and an half**; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

- **3 ½ years is a concept first used during time of Hanukkah**

Daniel 9:26 - ²⁶ "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the **people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary**. The end of it *shall be* with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

- This is speaking of the Romans who destroy Jerusalem
- The prince that is coming will make a covenant for 7 years and then will break it in the middle (3 ½) years.

Revelation 11:1-2 - **11** Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. ² But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. **And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.**

- Again we see 3 ½ years phrase first used in Daniel about Hanukkah

Revelation 12:6 - ⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there **one thousand two hundred and sixty days.**

- 3 ½ years again mentioned
- This is in the middle of the coming 7 year period called tribulation.

Hanukkah is the beginning of all of this revelation – it is all revealed in the celebration of Hanukkah: The antichrist (Antiochus...), the time frame of the tribulation, the strategy of the anti-Christ, and the strategy on how to overcome it...

Daniel spoke about Antiochus in...

Daniel 11:31 - ¹ And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily *sacrifices*, and place **there the abomination of desolation.**

But then Jesus comes along and quotes Daniel from a futuristic perspective... indicating that what Daniel prophesied was just a foreshadowing of something greater to come!

Matthew 24:15 - ¹⁵ "Therefore when you see the '**abomination of desolation**,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand)...

Interesting types and shadows...

Antiochus set up an Idol of Zeus made to look like him in the Temple. Antiochus Epiphanes (means "God Manifest") – 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 - ³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not*

come unless the falling away comes first, and **the man of sin is revealed**, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that **he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**

During this time there is a myth that Zeus took on the form of a bull, seduced a woman and put her on his back and rode off with her. Her name was Europa – which is where we get the word Europe from. We know that the scripture seems to indicate that the future anti-Christ will arise out of a 10 toed kingdom of the revived Roman empire (Europe)... look at how the scripture describes it...

Revelation 17:1-15 - Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, **I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,** ² with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

³ So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And **I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast** which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. ⁵ And on her forehead a name was written:

MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS
OF THE EARTH.

⁶ I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

⁷ But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the [Ⓜ]mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. ⁸ The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to [Ⓜ]perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and [Ⓜ]yet is.

⁹ "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. ¹⁰ There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. ¹¹ The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

¹² "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. ¹³ These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴ These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are* with Him *are* called, chosen, and faithful."

¹⁵ Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. ¹⁶ And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. ¹⁷ For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. ¹⁸ **And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."**

Important truths about Hanukkah...

1. This happened because of apostasy and compromise.

- The priesthood became corrupt and led Antiochus into the Temple
- The people stopped standing up for what they believed, became Hellenized and assimilated into the culture.

2. The light must stay lit in God's house.

- For this to happen there must be some consecrated oil in God's house and people
- The move of the Holy Spirit in our personal and corporate lives must be paramount.
- Daniels says the anti-Christ spirt will seek to change times and laws so that he can fulfill its agenda.