

Christmas Special
Jesus, Hanukkah, and the True Light

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Jesus and Hanukkah

- 1. John 10:24–26**
- 2. Why is Jesus in Jerusalem to celebrate Hanukkah?**
- 3. The Origin of Hanukkah**
 - Alexander the Great, Dan. 8**
 - Antiochus Epiphanes, Dan. 8, 11**
 - The Maccabean Revolt**
 - The “Miracle” of the Lamps**
- 4. Jesus at Hanukkah, John 10**

John 10:24, “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.’”

John 10:25, “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.”

John 10:26, “ ‘But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.’ ”

2. Why is Jesus in Jerusalem to celebrate Hanukkah?

John 10:22, “Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter.”

John 10:23, “And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon’s porch.”

What is Hanukkah?

***Hanukkah*, the Hebrew for “dedication.”**

Also known as the “Feast of Lights”

Although Moses did not inaugurate this feast, its observance is valid for two reasons:

First, Daniel prophesied the events that brought about this holy day (chapters 8 and 11).

Second, Yeshua authenticated the feast by going to Jerusalem to observe it.

Yochanan [John] mentioned that it was winter, for the end of the month of Kislev is usually in December.

~Fruchtenbaum, Arnold. *Life of Messiah*, Vol 3.

Three things we must note:

- 1. In the historical background Antiochus Epiphanes (“God manifest”) claimed to be the incarnation of Zeus. Thus, the Pharisees are hypervigilant to challenge anyone who claims to be God.**
- 2. Ezekiel warned of false shepherds, Ezek. 34**
- 3. Jesus has been making claims to be the *Meshiach*, the Jewish Messiah.**

The Origin of Hanukkah

- **Alexander the Great, Dan. 8**
- **Antiochus Epiphanes, Dan. 8, 11**
- **The Maccabean Revolt**
- **The “Miracle” of the Lamps**

Alexander the Great (356–323 BC)

**By 332 BC conquered Greece, Turkey,
Syria, Egypt, Persia**

**Sought a world empire, a global
language and global rule**

Died at the age of 33

Kingdom split between four generals

Ptolemy received Egypt



Alexander's Conquests



Dan. 8:5, “And as I was considering, suddenly a male goat [Alexander the Great] came from the west, across the surface of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.

Dan. 8:6, “Then he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing beside the river, and ran at him with furious power.

Dan. 8:7, “And I saw him confronting the ram; he was moved with rage against him, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns. There was no power in the ram to withstand him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand.”

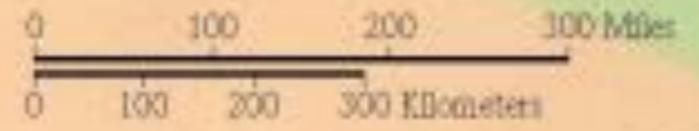
Dan. 8:8, “Therefore the male goat [Alexander] grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken [died in 323 BC], and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven.”

- **The Seleucid Empire (Turkey and Syria down to Egypt)**
- **The Ptolemaic Empire (Egypt)**



Romans decisively beat Antiochus III and demand forfeiture of all Seleucid claims in Asia Minor as well as a large sum of money (190 B.C.)

Antiochus III defeats Ptolemaic army which results in Seleucid control over Palestine (200 B.C.)



THE SELEUCID EMPIRE AND ANTIOCHUS III

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ⚔ Battle
- ⚔ Battle



Antiochus Epiphanes, “the Manifest God”

Antiochus IV, Epiphanes

Dan. 8:9, “And out of one of them came a little horn [Antiochus IV, Epiphanes] which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land.

Dan. 8:10, “And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the ground, and trampled them.”

Antiochus IV, Epiphanes

Dan. 8:11, “He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down.

Dan. 8:12, “Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered.”

Antiochus IV, Epiphanes

Dan. 8:13, “Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, ‘How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?’

Dan. 8:14, “And he said to me, ‘For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.’ ”

Dan. 11:31, “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.

Dan. 11:32, “Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

Dan. 11:33, “And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering.”

Dan. 11:34, “Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join with them by intrigue.

Dan. 11:35, “And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time.”

The Maccabean Revolt

Mattathias the priest led a revolt.

His third son, Judas Maccabeus, led the revolt.

The Miracle of the Lamps

Not mentioned until the Talmud around AD 600.

Jesus and the Feast of Lights. John 10:22–42

- 1. In the Fall Feasts, the last before Hanukkah is the Feast of Tabernacles, which was closely linked to the observance of Hanukkah. (Feast of Tabernacles is the framework for John 7:1–10:21)**
- 2. The issue is the question in John 10:24.**

John 10:22, “Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter.

John 10:23, “And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon’s porch.”



John 10:24, “Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, ‘How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Messiah [*Christos*], tell us plainly.’ ”

Jesus Claimed to be the True Temple

John 2:19, “Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’”

John 2:20, “Then the Jews said, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?’”

John 2:21, “But He was speaking of the temple of His body.”

Later the Apostle Paul wrote in Eph. 2:19–22:

Eph. 2:19, “Now, therefore, you [Gentiles] are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints [early Jewish believers in Acts 2–9] and members of the household of God,

Eph. 2:20, “having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,

Eph. 2:21, “in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

Eph. 2:22, “in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

John 10:25, “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.

John 10:26, “ ‘But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.

John 10:27, “ ‘My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.’ ”

John 10:28, “ ‘And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

John 10:29, “ ‘My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.

John 10:30, “ ‘I and My Father are one.’ ”

John 10:31, “Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him.”

Jesus Claimed to be the Good Shepherd:

John 10:14, “ ‘I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.’ ”

As the Good Shepherd He laid down His life for the Sheep:

John 10:17, “ ‘Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.

John 10:18, “ ‘No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.’ ”

The Judaeans could not decide if He was crazy, demon-possessed, or what?

But some understood.

John 10:21, “Others said, ‘These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?’ ”

Who do you say that Jesus is? How would you know the Jewish Messiah if He came?