

The Historical facts and truth behind the Jewish Holiday Hanukkah

Where did the Jewish holiday Hanukkah come from, and why can't it be found in the King James Version of the Bible? For starters, in 1885, the British Crown (who own the KJV bible) removed the Apocrypha from the King James Bible, leaving 66 books from its original eighty. The real question becomes why, after centuries of accepted scriptural truth, the Crown removed it. Undoubtedly, the Crown and other influential religious groups had a hand in covering up the truth regarding the significant and often overlooked Books of Maccabees, a key to understanding the origins of Hanukkah.

The 1st Book of Maccabee, a significant historical text, was time-dated using the intriguing Seleucid Era calendar. This calendar, often overshadowed by the more commonly known Julian, Gregorian or Jewish calendars, holds a unique significance in understanding the historical truth of Hanukkah. To unravel this significance, we will delve into chapter one of the Book of Maccabees and establish the basis for understanding the Jewish holiday “Hanukkah” the dedication of Gods new altar.

Note: The Book of Maccabees is the only book in the Bible that is specifically dated using the Macedonian calendar. At this time in history, which would have been in the 2nd Century B.C., the house of Judea (Israel) was never subject to another culture's calendar system in their homeland. When the House of Judea was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian nation in the 5th century B.C., the Judeans were subject to the Babylonian calendar; however, this became forced upon them as they had no choice but to adopt it. Once the Israelites returned to their homeland after their 70-year captivity, they returned to using the original biblical calendar. These unique events will eventually lead the Jewish Rabbis and Sages in the 2nd century A.D., to depart from God's original calendar system. Hundreds of years before this time, Moses, the author of the Book of Jubilees, prophesied that Israel would observe the moon and err in their observance of God's Sabbaths and holidays, making them an abomination to Him, as recorded in the 6th chapter. It is essential to read Jubilees 6:20-36 carefully for a deeper understanding.

REVIEW: *The Original Calendar Jubilee ourline configuration*

- 20: For I have written it in the book of the first law in which I wrote to thee that thou shouldst observe it in its time one day a year; and I have explained to thee the offerings on that day, that they should be remembered and that the children of Israel should celebrate it one day in each year. 21: And at the new **month** of the first month, and in the new month of the fourth month, and in the new month of the seventh month, and in the new month of the tenth month are the **days of remembrance** and the days of the festivals in the four divisions of the years: written and ordained they are for a **testimony until eternity**. 22: And Noah ordained them for himself as festivals for future generations, for on them there was to him a remembrance. 23: At the new **month** of the first month, it was said to him that he should make for himself an ark, and on it the earth became dry,

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and he opened [the ark] and saw the earth. And at the new month of the fourth month, the mouth of the flood gates of the lowest deep was closed. 24: And at the new month of the seventh month all the mouths of the floodgates of the earth were opened and the waters began to descend into the depth beneath. 25: And at the new month of the tenth month, the tops of the mountains appeared, and Noah became glad. 26: And on this account, he ordained them as festivals of remembrance unto himself unto eternity, and thus they are ordained. 27: And they were raised into the tablets of heaven: thirteen sabbaths to each, from one to another their remembrance, from the first to the second, from the second to the third, from the third to the fourth. 28: And all the days of this commandment are fifty-two sabbaths of days, and the whole year is completed. 29: Thus it is engraved and ordained in the tablets of heaven, and there is no transgression from one year to another. 30: And thou command the children of Israel that they should observe the years in this number, three hundred and sixty-four days, and the year shall be complete and the fixed date of their days and their festivals shall not be corrupted, for everything transpires in them according to their testimony; and they [Israel] shall not miss a day or corrupt a festival.

Moses prophecy to Israel over calendar observance

- 31: But if they do transgress and do not observe them according to his commandment, they will be corrupted all their fixed dates and the years will waver in consequence, and also their times and their years, and they will transgress their ordinances. 32: And all the children of Israel will forget and will not find the paths of the years, and will forget the new month and the sabbaths and the festivals, and in all the order of the years, they will err. 33: For I know, and from now on I shall make it known to thee, and not from my heart, but thus is written in a book before me and is ordained in the tablets of heaven, the division of the days, that they forget not the festivals of my covenant and walk according to the festivals of the gentiles, after their errors and after their ignorance. 34: And there will be those who will make observations of the moon, for this one [the moon] corrupts the stated times and comes out earlier each year by ten days. 35: And in this way, they will corrupt the years and will observe a wrong day as the day of testimony and a corrupted festival day, and everyone will mix holy days with unclean ones and unclean with holy; for they will err as to months and sabbaths and festivals and jubilees. 36: And on this account, I command thee and testify to thee that thou shouldst testify to them, for after thy death thy children will corrupt so that they make a year only **three hundred and sixty-four days**, and on this account **they will err** as to new months and sabbaths and fixed times and festivals and will ever eat blood with all kinds of flesh.

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The scriptures above, translated by George H. Schodde, PH, D, from the 1830-1888 Book of Jubilees, are a second witness to those found in the Dead Sea Scrolls. This validation further underscores their authenticity and historical significance in understanding the origins of Hanukkah.

Now that you have read the scriptures from Jubilees and the prophecy writing by Moses, there should be no doubt that Alohym's fixed year is 364 days long with 12 months and 13 Sabbaths in each season, and not trespass, for it is commanded! Understanding this information is crucial to the flow of scripture in the Book of Maccabees. So, let's begin with the first Book of Maccabees, Ch 1:10, which says,

10. And there came out of them a wicked root Antiochus surnamed Epiphanes, son of Antiochus the King, who had been a hostage at Rome, and he reigned in the hundred and thirty and seventh year of the kingdom of the Greeks.

Note: The scripture references the 137th year of the kingdom of the Greeks. To understand how this date corresponds to the Julian or Gregorian calendar within the context of biblical timelines, we need to recognize that "the kingdom of the Greeks" refers to the Macedonian Calendar or the Seleucid Era Calendar. This calendar began in the autumn following the first new moon after the autumn equinox in 312 BC, which occurred on Tuesday, October 2. It was derived from the Babylonian Calendar.

It's important to note that Hipparchus, a renowned Greek mathematician, did not publish his calculations regarding the "precession of the equinoxes" until 127 BC. To accurately convert the Macedonian dates to the Julian and Gregorian calendars, we must subtract 137 from 312 (the starting point of the Macedonian Calendar). This calculation gives us the precise date of 175 BCE. Historical records indicate that Antiochus IV Epiphanes reigned from 175 to 164 BCE.

Let's now set the stage from scripture just when Epiphanes came into Israel and Jerusalem, Maccabees: 1:20.

20; And after that Antiochus has smitten Egypt, he returned again in the hundred forty and third year, and went up against Isreal and Jerusalem with a great multitude. (*corrected year would be 169 BCE*) 21; And entered proudly into the sanctuary, and took away the golden altar, and the candlesticks of light, and all the vessels thereof, 22; And the table of the shewbread, and the pouring vessels, and the vials, and the censers of gold, and the veil, and the crown, and the golden ornaments that were before the temple, all which he pulled off. 23; He took also the silver and the gold, and the precious vessels: also he took the hidden treasures which he found.

In essence, Epiphanes ransacked the second Temple and stole everything of value he could find, now let's read what he did two years later.

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29; And after two years fully expired the king sent his chief collector of tribute unto the cities of Juda, who came unto Jerusalem with a great multitude 30; And spake peaceable words unto them, but all was deceit: for when they had given him credence, he fell suddenly upon the city, and smote it very sore, and destroyed much people of Israel. 31; And when he had taken the spoils of the city, he set it on fire, and pulled down the houses and walls thereof on every side. (*corrected year is now 167 BCE*)

After destroying Jerusalem, Antiochus built up the City of David with great walls and with mighty towers and made it a stronghold for this army. (*Remember, the old City of David is Bethlehem and where Mt. Zion is located along with the destroyed first and second temples*)

Scriptural overview starting in chapter 1: 32-53

- a) Captured and enslaved the women and children as cattle
- b) Built up the city of David with strong walls and mighty towers
- c) Stored the spoils of Jerusalem and Judea in their fortress
- d) The sanctuary was defiled with innocent blood on every side
- e) The inhabitants of Jerusalem fled
- f) The sanctuary was laid waste like a wilderness, her feasts turned to mourning, her sabbaths into reproach
- g) That everyone should abandon God's law
- h) Forbid burnt and drink offerings, in the temple and profane the sabbaths and feasts
- i) Thus, many Judeans converted to the Greeks religion and forsook the law
- j) The true Israelites were driven to secret places

THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION (It's full understanding)

54. Now the fifteenth day of the month Casleu, in the hundred forty and fifth year, they set up the abomination of desolation upon the altar, 55. And build idol altars throughout the cities of Juda on every side; and burnt incense at the doors of their houses, and in the streets. (*corrected year is now 167 BCE*) 56. And when they had rent in pieces the books of the law which they found, they burnt then with fire. 57. And whosoever was found with any the books of the testament, or if any committed to the law, the king's commandment was, that they should put him to death.

COMMENTARY:

In a nutshell, the Abomination of Desolation reflects:

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- Idols built upon God's altar throughout Judah
- The renaming of Alohym's temple to: "Jupiter Olympius" (2 Maccabee 6:2)
- The burning of the books of the law
- Death to thoughts committed to the Gods law and covenants
- Antiochus is portrayed as an Antichrist

The events surrounding the placement of idol "altars" on Alohym's altar are particularly intriguing. This incident occurred on the 25th day of Casleu (Kislev), which is the ninth month in the (solar) Hebrew calendar. Antiochus, driven by his hatred for Alohym's Law and the Sabbaths, aimed to profane the Israelites by sacrificing unclean animals on the Sabbath. However, the Book of Maccabees states that the 25th of Casleu fell on a Thursday, not a Saturday. This is further supported by Chapter 6 of the original outline of Alohym's calendar found in the Book of Jubilees and Enoch (The Sun), chapter 72. It's important to note that the Zadok, Jewish, and Gregorian calendars all recognize the Roman Saturday Sabbath, rather than the original biblical Sabbath.

Instead of sacrificing a pig on the 25th, Antiochus executed certain women who had circumcised their children on the Sabbath and hanged their infants by the neck (verses 59-61). Throughout chapters 2 and 3, numerous battles took place between the forces of Epiphanes Antiochus, led by Judas Maccabeus and his brothers, and the Israelites, who emerged victorious. Over time, Antiochus's troops became increasingly distressed, resulting in the removal of the Greek soldiers from the sanctuary (chapter 4, verse 36). The Israelites then decided to cleanse and rededicate the sanctuary.

In verses 37-43 of chapter 4, the Israelites expressed their mourning over the condition of the sanctuary. They tore their clothes, scattered ashes on their heads, sounded the alarm with trumpets, and cried out to heaven. As their mourning turned into vigilance, the Israelites focused on cleansing the sanctuary and removing the defiled altar stones from the temple (chapters 4:44-45). This event highlights the significance of Hanukkah, which we will explore in chapter 4, verses 46 and 48.

46; And laid up stones in the mountain of the temple in a convenient place, until there should come a prophet to shew what should be done with them. 47; Then they took whole stones according to the law, and built a new altar according to the former; 48; And made up the sanctuary and the things that were within the temple, and hallowed the courts. 49; They made also new holy vessels, and into the temple they brought the candlesticks, and the altar of burnt offerings, and or incense, and the table. 50; And upon the altar they burned

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incense, and the lamps that were upon the candlesticks they lighted, that they might give light in the temple.

In retrospect, the restoration, sanctification and rededication of the temple and altar finish a perfect 3-year period i.e. 1092-day period or the equivalent to (3) 364-day years. However; the story of Antiochus doesn't stop there but with his death as stated in Daniel 11.

THE PROPHECY OF DANIEL 12

To begin this section of the article, it is essential to read Daniel chapter 11 to understand Daniel's interaction with the messengers at the river. In Daniel 11, once you comprehend the historical context referred to, including the Syrian Wars and the actions of Ptolemy XII and his daughter Cleopatra I—who was married to Antiochus III, the notable Seleucid king— you will grasp the dynamics between the "King of the South" and the "King of the North."

Starting in Daniel 11;27, the two kings who engage in deceit and mischief are Antiochus IV Epiphanes, known as the "King of the North," and Ptolemy VI Philometer, referred to as the "King of the South." Both kings were fixated on evil and plotted against one another instead of seeking peace. Let's begin with Antiochus' actions in the Holy Land, starting in verse 31.

Daniel 11;31; And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily [sacrifice], and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.

COMMENTARY:

The scripture above from the book of Daniel brings into focus the first time the phrase "abomination that maketh desolate" is used, and a second witness to the book of Maccabees. As a note, the British Crown, the owner of the King James Version Bible, removed the apocrypha, including the books of Maccabees, in 1885. But how did Antiochus die and where? That event is addressed in Daniel 11:45 —let's read.

45; And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.

Notice; 2 Maccabees 9:5 and 28

5: The Lord Almighty smote Antiochus with an incurable and invisible plague which brought pain to his bowels and sore torment to his inner parts.

28; Thus, the murderer and blasphemer having suffered most grievously, as he entreated other men, so died he a miserable death in a strange country in the mountains.

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The historical timeline and overview above give you a starting point for when the words “abomination of desolation” were first used and the circumstances surrounding their meaning as we progress into future times.

Question; in what context is Yahusha speaking concerning the abomination of desolation in Matthew 24, let’s read.

14; And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. 15; When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

In verse 15, we read about the "abomination of desolation" (Hebrew: "Filthiness of Desolation") standing in the holy place, thereby defiling this sacred site. But does this refer to the third temple that the corporate Jewish nation of Israel is "expected" to build? To understand this, we must examine the history of the tribe, or the House of Judah. Scripture reveals that the House of Israel received a written letter of divorce and, due to their rebellious nature, were conquered and relocated by the Assyrian nation approximately 125 years earlier (see Jeremiah 3:8). This means they had no part in the construction of the Second Temple.

The Jews who returned from Babylon to the land of Israel after 70 years of captivity—individuals such as Nehemiah, Haggai, and Zechariah—were part of an obedient nation that observed God's Sabbaths and followed the original calendar.

It is important to note that the physical construction of a “third” temple would not possess the same glory as the first two temples built by Solomon and “Nehemiah’s temple” built by the House of Judah in the 6th century BCE. The significance of the "temple" changed with the symbols and doctrines of the new covenant, as God's laws are now in our hearts and minds through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. What does this all mean, you as an obedient believer needs to guard your heart, mind and protect your thoughts from Satan’s kingdom.

Let's take a moment to reflect on this question: What impurities or sins might keep you from entering the sacred place where the divine spirit, a powerful and holy presence, resides within your hearts and minds? Are you able to separate your thoughts and put every imagination (reasoning) under the authority of Yahusha? (2 Corinthians 10:4-6) In the Bible, the words "imagination" and "imagine" are used 20 times, all having to do with the heart of man. An even more pressing question is: What could be so important in your life that you would overlook the sacrifice of the Messiah, who died for your sins? As we approach the great tribulation, it may involve struggles for food, water, or shelter, as well as the

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challenge of overcoming Satan's dominion, along with the principalities and powers that govern this world.

The body of Messiah (believers) should focus on the Spiritual aspects and the "heart of matters" instead of the physical world of religion and the traditions of men that render God's commandments ineffective. (Matthew 15:6) Let's take a moment to read Shaul's (i.e., Paul's) statement to the Romans in chapter 12:1,2.

Romans 12;1,2

1; I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service. 2; And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

COMMENTARY:

As time draws to a close and we approach the period of great tribulation, what abominations (anti-Christ) weigh on your heart that need your attention? If we are to walk in faith, there must be actions of obedience to His word. (*John 14:15, If you love me, keep my commandments*)

Now, regarding your question: What is the essence and significance of the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah? Is it a celebration of dedication to God's altar and a triumph over His enemies from centuries past, or is it merely another human tradition that has fallen short of its mark?

Blessings.

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