

THE FEAST OF DEDICATION

What's In A Name

Chanukah In History

Chanukah Today

Chanukah And Yeshua

Chanukah And Spiritual Warfare

Chanukah's Message For Us Today

Chanukah Prophetically

Seven Headings

What's In A Name ?

- The Feast of Dedication is also known as the Festival of Lights, because of the lighting of the Chanukah, the eight branched menorah.

- Hebrew: **חֲנֻכָּה** (Chet, Nun, Kaf, Hey)

- Don't forget you read Hebrew words right to left

♣ The Hebrew Word Means Dedication

- Chet (rhymes with mate) - the eighth letter of the Hebrew aleph-bet; it has **the sound of 'ch' as in bach**
- Nun (pronounced noon) - the fourteenth letter of the Hebrew aleph-bet; it has **the sound of 'n' as in now**
- Kaf (pronounced kaf, like the cockney for 'cafe') - the eleventh letter of the Hebrew aleph-bet; it has **the sound of 'k' as in kite**
- Hey (pronounced hey, like hey!) - the fifth letter of the Hebrew aleph-bet; it has **the sound of 'h' as in hay**

- Why is it spelt so many different ways?

♣ Hanukah - Hanukkah - Hannukah - Hannukkah - Chanukah - Chanukkah - Channukkah

♣ The answer is 'transliteration' - i.e. how the Hebrew letters are changed for similar sounding English letters. This is not easy for this particular Hebrew word, hence the many different spellings

♣ I will use 'Chanukah' - transliteration used by the website 'Hebrew for Christians'

- **Chanukah is a Jewish Feast - Observed for eight nights and days, starting on the 25th day of Kislev and ending on the 3rd day of Tevet according to the Hebrew calendar**
 - This may occur at any time from late November to late December in the Gregorian calendar. In 2016 the Feast begins on the night of Saturday 24th December 2016 and ends on Sunday 1st January 2017 - so this year it happens to coincide with Christmas and New Year.
- **Chanukah is not a Feast of the Lord**
 - ♣ **The Feasts of the Lord (like Pesach and Sukkot) are spoken of in the books of Leviticus and Numbers, and elsewhere**
 - **They are summarised in Leviticus chapter 23; there are eight of them:**
 - ↪ Shabbat (Sabbath)
 - ↪ Pesach (Passover)
 - ↪ Chag HaMatzot (Unleavened Bread)
 - ↪ Reishit Katzir (Firstfruits)
 - ↪ Shavuot (Weeks or Pentecost)
 - ↪ Yom Teruah (Trumpets)
 - ↪ Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)
 - ↪ Sukkot (Tabernacles)
 - **Nevertheless the Feast of Dedication is one of the highlights of the Jewish calendar and is a feast of celebration and great joy**
- **The apocryphal book of 1 Maccabees records, in chapter 4, verses 36 to 56, the story of the re-dedication of the temple which had been desecrated.**

"On the twenty-fifth of the ninth month, Chislev, in the year 148 they rose at dawn and offered a lawful sacrifice on the new altar of burnt offering which they had made. The altar was dedicated, to the sound of hymns, zithers, lyres and cymbals, at the same time of year and on the same day on which the gentiles had originally profaned it. The whole people fell prostrate in adoration and then praised Heaven who had granted them success. For eight days they celebrated the dedication of the altar, joyfully offering burnt offerings, communion and thanksgiving sacrifices." 1 Maccabees 4: 52-56

- ♣ **This book is not part of the canon of scripture - but is a reliable Jewish history, even if not inspired.**
- ♣ **There is no reference in the Bible to the origins of the Feast of Dedication**

Chanukah In History

- **The 'so-called' Silent Years of the Bible**
 - ♣ Malachi (the last book of the Old Testament) was prophesying when the nation of Israel was back again in the land of Israel after the Babylonian captivity, but they were under the domination of the great world power of that day, Persia
 - ♣ In about 435 B.C, when the prophet Malachi ceased his writing, the centre of world power began to shift from the East to the West
 - ♣ By the time we reach the New Testament, the book of Matthew, we discover an entirely different atmosphere - almost a different world. where Rome is now the dominant power of the earth
- **The Bible is not in fact 'silent' about these years at all**
 - ♣ **Just as the 2000 years of church history are seen prophetically in Revelation chapters 2 and 3...so these 'silent years' are spoken of prophetically in Daniel chapters 8 and 11**
 - Daniel 8: 1-8 The Medes & Persians and Alexander The Great (interpreted in vs. 20-22)
 - Daniel 8: 9-14 Antiochus Epiphanes (and prophetically the Antichrist)
 - Daniel 8: 23-25 The Antichrist foreshadowed
 - Daniel 11: 1-4 The Persian and Greek Empires
 - Daniel 11: 5-35 The Seleucid and Ptolemaic Rivalry
 - Daniel 11: 36-45 Antiochus Epiphanes (and prophetically the Antichrist)
 - ♣ **Antiochus IV, the 'villain' of Chanukah, is prophetically described in Daniel 8:9-14 and 11:36-45 - and the prophecy, like many in the Bible, has a double meaning - speaking both of Antiochus Epiphanes and of the Antichrist**
- **To understand the origins of Chanukah we need to look at the Historical Empires**

♣ Persian Empire

- 539-530 BC Cyrus (Daniel 5; Isaiah 45))
- 529-522 BC Cambyses) Daniel 11
- 522 BC Artaxerxes (Hystaspes)) vs. 1-2
- 522-486 BC Darius I)
- 486-465 BC Xerxes I (Ahasuerus) (Esther)
- 465-425 BC Artaxerxes II (Longimanus) (Daniel 9: 25)
(Nehemiah 2)
- 425-330 BC Various others, finally Darius III

♣ Greek Empire

- 334-323 BC Alexander The Great
- 323-148 BC The Divided Empire - Alexander's Four Generals
 - ↪ Macedonian & Greece Cassander
 - ↪ Asia Minor & Thrace Lysimachus
 - ↪ Egypt & Arabia Ptolemy
 - ↪ Syria, Babylon and the East Seleucus

♣ Antiochus IV

- **Antiochus IV was the Hellenistic king of the Seleucid Empire from 175 BC until his death in 164 BC**
 - ↪ **A successor of Seleucus, ruler of Syria, Babylon and the East - this included Israel**
 - ↪ **He was a son of King Antiochus III the Great**
 - ↪ **His original name was Mithradates, but he adopted the name 'Epiphanes', meaning 'God Manifest'**
- **It is during the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes that the events of the first Chanukah occur in Israel**

♣ **Roman Empire 197 BC onwards**

- **Rome conquered Greece in the early 2nd century BC - and though it was Roman rule, the culture of Greece was still the culture of the empire** - hence the similarity between Greek and Roman gods and their mythology
- **The Roman Empire, though it fell into ruin and split asunder, was never defeated**
- **We, today, are still in the days of Rome (albeit Rome II) with the same Hellenistic culture**

♣ The Times of the Gentiles - Prophetically pictured by Nebuchadnezzar's statue (Daniel 2) began with Babylon and these empires (Persia, Greece and Rome) follow and are 'the time of the gentiles' - indeed, the days in which we live are the feet of iron and clay of Rome (Rome II)

• **Antiochus IV (Epiphanes)**

♣ **Antiochus IV, a successor of Seleucus, was the Hellenistic king of the Seleucid Empire from 175 BC until his death in 164 BC**

- **Hellenism - Greek culture, thinking and attitudes - it is liberal, pluralistic and humanist**

♣ **Antiochus outlawed Jewish religious rites and traditions** kept by observant Jews

♣ **Ordered the worship of Zeus as the supreme god**

- **This was anathema to the Jews and they refused**, so Antiochus sent an army to enforce his decree
- **The city of Jerusalem was destroyed** because of the resistance (**168 BC**), **many were slaughtered**, and Antiochus established a military Greek citadel called the Acra

♣ **He prohibited the study of Torah**

♣ **He appointed a Hellenistic 'High Priest' to the temple**

♣ **He desecrated the temple by requiring pigs to be sacrificed on the altar**

- **The Jewish Revolt**
 - ♣ **These outrages eventually incited rebellion, and in 165 BC the Hasmonean family of Matthias, the High Priest, and his youngest son Judah 'Maccabee' (meaning, the 'Hammer') organised a revolt**
 - ♣ **Succeeded in driving out the Antiochus and the Syrian Greeks from Israel - a miracle**
 - ♣ **Jerusalem was liberated, and the temple was re-consecrated and re-dedicated for Jewish worship.** This re-dedication is recorded in the apocryphal book of 1 Maccabees records in chapter 4, and in other Jewish sources.
 - ♣ **The Sanctified Oil - according to later tradition (the Talmud, the written recording of oral Rabbinic custom and teaching) at the time of re-dedication there was only sufficient undefiled oil to light the temple menorah for one day - miraculously the sanctified oil burned for the whole eight days of the Feast of Re-dedication - the time needed to prepare a fresh supply of consecrated oil**

- ♣ **The Celebration of The Feast of Dedication**
 - ♣ **First recorded in 1 Maccabees 4 (as we saw) - and it was then celebrated in the years thereafter, commencing annually on the 25th day of Kislev, hence it was celebrated in Yeshua's time.**
 - ♣ **The story of the oil is not mentioned in the book of Maccabees - it is only first recorded in the Gemara (the latter part of the Talmud) which was completed around 500 AD: hence may scholars suggest that the initial eight day Feast was in fact a late celebration of the Feast of Sukkot (Tabernacles); itself an eight day feast.** In 165 BC it was not possible for the Jews to celebrate Sukkot (which begins on the 15th day of Tishri) until the temple had been re-dedicated, which was not completed until the 25th day of Kislev.
 - ♣ **The focus is 'Dedication', not Lights**
 - ♣ **The only reference in scripture to the Feast of Dedication is in John's gospel, chapter 10, verses 22 to 23 - but before we look at this scripture we will look at Chanukah as it is celebrated today**

Chanukah Today

- **Chanukah is not one of the Feasts of the Lord** - as I have already said
- **Nevertheless the Feast of Dedication is one of the highlights of the Jewish calendar and is a feast of celebration and great joy**
 - ♣ **There are many rules (mitzvot) and customs (minhagim) for this eight day festival to commemorate the Jewish victory over their enemies and the re-dedication of the temple.**
 - ♣ **It is a feast of joy with lights, games, and the giving of gifts**
 - ♣ **Food, as always is, a great feature - particularly dairy products and food cooked in oil (e.g. potato latkes and doughnuts)**
 - ♣ **Chanukah is a joyous feast and all signs of sadness are avoided; i.e. there is no mourning or fasting, except in the case of shiva (mourning of a death)**
- **The Lighting of the Chanukiah**
 - ♣ **Lighting the Chanukiah, the eight branched menorah, recalls the miracle of the sanctified oil which burned for eight days**
 - **The normal menorah has only seven branches.**
 - ♣ **The nightly kindling of the Chanukiah (the Chanukah menorah), with its increasing brighter light, is symbolic of the godly resistance to tyranny and assimilation, and of re-dedication to the Lord.**
 - ♣ **The Chanukah lights can either be candle flames or oil-fuelled - I am using an electric one for demonstration, but this is not 'kosher'.**
 - **The '*shamash*' – the 'attendant' or 'servant' candle is used to kindle the other lights – it sits a bit higher or lower than the other candles on the ninth (middle) branch of the menorah.**
 - ♣ **Each night a candle is added, the newest (left-most) candle is lit first and then one continues lighting from left to right - hence lights are added to the menorah from right to left, but they are lit from left to right**
 - ♣ **As the lights are lit, blessings are said**
 - **Men and women alike are obligated to participate in the**

menorah lighting

- In some families, the head of the household lights the family menorah while everyone else listens to the blessings and answers, 'Amen'

♣ **If you want to know more about lighting the chanukiah and the blessings - see me afterwards...and I have some notes which may be helpful**

- **It is still today an eight day feast from Kislev 25 to Tevet 3**

Chanukah And Yeshua

- **The only record in scripture of the Feast of Dedication is of Yeshua at the Feast, in John chapter 10**

'Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. and Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch.' *John 10:22-23*

- **The Context in which this is recorded is important to note**

♣ **In John chapter 7, verses 1-31, we read**

- **Sukkot (the Feast of Tabernacles) was about to occur and Yeshua's brothers urged him to leave Galilee and go to Judea** (for they did not believe in Him), and they went to Jerusalem for Sukkot
- But Yeshua remained in Galilee, but then **went secretly to Jerusalem for Sukkot, because the Jews were seeking to kill him**
- **In the middle of the Feast, Yeshua enters the temple and begins to teach** - and there is conflict over Yeshua's origins and His stated mission

"You both know Me, and you know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me." *John 7:28-29*

- **The Jews try to seize Yeshua** but fail 'because His hour had not yet come'

♣ **In John chapter 7, verses 32-53, we read**

- **The Pharisees** get to hear of Yeshua being in Jerusalem and they **send officers to arrest Yeshua**

- We then read on **the last, and greatest day of Sukkot, Yeshua says...**

'On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.'
John 7:37-39

- The officers of the priests, after hearing Yeshua speak, return to the Chief Priest and the Pharisees who ask **"Why have you not brought Him?"** - their reply is **"No man ever spoke like this Man!"**

♣ **In John chapter 8, verses 1-12, we read**

- There then follows the **incident of the woman caught in adultery** which is, in reality, **a conflict between Yeshua and the Pharisees**
- **Yeshua by his words, reveals the darkness in their hearts, He literally switches the light on**
- **This story finishes, appropriately with one of Yeshua's great 'I AM' statements**

'Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.'
John 8:12

♣ **In John chapter 8, verses 13-36, we read**

- **There then follows further conflict with the Pharisees**
 - ↪ Firstly over **Yeshua's self-witness**
 - ↪ Then over **His imminent departure**, and then
 - ↪ Over **His testimony of the Father by His words and actions**
- Then there is **conflict of origins and parenthood**
 - ↪ **Yeshua tells the Pharisees**

"You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."
John 8:23-24

- ↪ **Yeshua speaks of His Sonship, and many believe in**

Him

♣ In John chapter 8, verses 37-59, we read

- After this there is possibly **the most direct and blunt exchange with the Pharisees where Yeshua plainly tells them they are children of the devil, not of Abraham - this does not go down well!**
- The argument of heredity continues and **Yeshua then tells them -**

'Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."
John 8:58

- **It ends with the Pharisees attempting to stone Yeshua, but He escapes their clutches**

♣ In John chapter 9, verses 1-41, we read

- There then follows the **incident of Yeshua healing a man who was born blind - a clear prophetic sign that He is the Messiah**
- **It leads to further conflict with the Pharisees, who excommunicate the formerly blind man**
- **Yeshua seeks him out and reveals to him who He is - the 'blind man gains his spiritual sight!**
- **This episode is all about sight and blindness, physically and spiritually - and it ends thus:**

'And Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind." Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, "Are we blind also?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains.'
John 9: 39-41

- **Thus there is a direct link back to the previous incident of the woman caught in adultery and the spiritual blindness of the Pharisees and Yeshua being the 'Light of the World'**

♣ In John chapter 10, verses 1-21, we read

- **Yeshua's teaching on Himself as the 'Good Shepherd'**

- **There is a direct connection between this and the incident of the man born blind** - Yeshua uses idioms to contrast the Pharisees who are thieves and robbers with Himself, the Good Shepherd
- **Yeshua even uses the same word**, (Greek: *ekballo* meaning 'cast out') in verse 4 (translated as 'brings out') as is used in the description of the Pharisees casting out the man born blind (John 9:34)
- **Yeshua then speaks of giving His life for the sheep - and that His sheep hear His voice as He hears the Father's voice - and He knows them**
- **As the Feast of Dedication was approaching Yeshua reveals His dedication to obey the Father's will, saying:**

"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 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." John 10:17-18

- **This ends with some saying Yeshua is demon possessed, others respond:**

"These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"
John 10:21

- **Here again is a direct link of this teaching and conflict with the Pharisees to the events recorded in the previous chapter of John's gospel**
- **Sukkot to Chanukah (the Context of John 10:22-23)**
 - ♣ **All this happens in the period between Sukkot and Chanukah (2 months)**
 - ♣ **It is in this context that John chapter 10 continues with Yeshua walking in the temple, in Solomon's porch during the Feast of Dedication**
 - ♣ **It has been a story of the conflict between Light and Dark, and between Blindness and Sight**
- **Yeshua at the Feast of Dedication**
 - ♣ **Surrounded by the religious Jews, Yeshua is then asked directly to declare whether He is the Christ (the anointed one, that is the Messiah) or not**
 - ♣ **Yeshua's reply is damning:**

- **Look at the Evidence - the Works of the Father**
- **You are not My sheep**

'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. But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you."'
John 10:25-26

↪ **Again there is a direct reference back to the previous discussion about sheep and shepherds**

- **My Sheep - Yeshua finishes by declaring:**

'My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 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. I and My Father are one.'
John 10:27-30

- **Here is a clear statement of Yeshua as the true shepherd,** whose voice the sheep hear (unlike the Pharisees); and a statement of the eternal security of His sheep because they are held in two pairs of hands, Yeshua's and the Fathers

♣ **Finally Yeshua says plainly that He and the Father are one - at which the Jews again attempt to stone Him, but He escapes their grasp**

- **Here, at the Feast of Dedication, the whole background to these conflicts with the religious Jews is Yeshua's Dedication to the Father**
 - ♣ Yeshua was doing the works of the Father in obedience to the Father - yet they refused to believe
 - ♣ It is interesting that John chapter 10 concludes with Yeshua going to the other side of the Jordan, where many believed in Him
- **What may we learn about Dedication from this time (Sukkot to Chanukah) of conflict between Yeshua and the religious Jews?**
 - ♣ **1. Dedication to the Lord will bring conflict with the 'religious' - the difference between 'religion' and 'relationship'**
 - ♣ **2. Dedication to the Lord will open blind eyes - giving us spiritual sight and insight, because Yeshua is the Light of the World**
 - ♣ **3. Dedication to the Lord will enable us to hear the voice of the Shepherd, to Know Him as He Knows Us, and to Follow Him**

- ♣ **4. Dedication to the Lord means we are truly Abrahams seed - we are heirs of God's promise to Abraham and sons of the living God, co-heirs with Yeshua - this is our spiritual ancestry - grafted in to the Olive Tree of Israel**

'And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.'
Galatians 3:29

Chanukah And Spiritual Warfare

- **Chanukah reminds us of the Spiritual Battle**

"For I have bent Judah, My bow, fitted the bow with Ephraim, and raised up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and made you like the sword of a mighty man."
Zechariah 9: 13

- ♣ **As in the days of Antiochus Epiphanes - there is a battle between the 'sons of Greece' and the 'sons of Zion'**
 - **This battle is raging in our society** - and in the last few decades we have seen the erosion of our Judeo-Christian heritage, which influenced our laws, our leaders, our culture and our whole way of thinking
 - **Our heritage is being lost to the Hellenistic (Greek) attitudes, thinking and values (Liberality, Pluralism and Humanism)** - that are opposed to God's laws and character
 - **As in the days of the Greek Empire; today there are many 'gods', all of them false gods - and every man does what is 'right in his own eyes'**

'In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.'
Judges 17:6; 21:25

'Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law.'
Proverbs 29:18

- **Knowledge of...and dedication to the one true God is being increasingly outlawed and attacked** - just as in the days of Antiochus Epiphanes.

- ♣ **'Sons of Zion' are in complete Opposition to the 'Sons of Greece'**
 - **The ways of man are not the ways of God**

*"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord.
"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."*
Isaiah 55:8-9

- **The love of the world is in complete opposition to the love of the Father**

'Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.' 1 John 2:15-17

↪ **Only one road leads to eternal life**

♣ **The Battle is Spiritual**

- **We need to allow the Lord to stir us up and raise us up, and have Him equip us for the fight.**
- **Spiritual battle requires armour and weapons are spiritual**
Eph. 6:10-18
 - ↪ **Most important of all we must learn - It is a battle fought only in the Lord's strength, not our own - as Paul urges us...**

'Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might' and to 'Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.' Ephesians 6:10-11

- **No need to fight every battle**
 - ↪ **Allow the Lord to guide you**
 - ↪ **The Battle is fought by Standing**

• **Deception in the Church - the Spiritual Battle also rages within the Church**

♣ **Sadly this spiritual battle between the 'sons of Greece' and the 'sons of Zion' is found within the church - because of false teachers and false teaching**

- **Yeshua told us it would be so**

"Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold." Matthew 24:11-12

♣ **The Church today is riddled with 'Doctrines of Demons' - and many have been led astray from the truth**

'Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron...' 1 Timothy 4:1-2

♣ **Greek Thinking (vs. Hebraic Thinking) is in the Church - and its roots are in the Hellenistic anti-Christ ways of the world (philosophy and empty deceit)**

'Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.' Colossians 2:8

♣ **The Church has Abandoned its Jewish Roots**

- **Leading to 'Boasting against the broken off Branches'**

'Do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not

support the root, but the root supports you.'

Romans 11:18

♣ **Replacement Theology - the worst heresy of all is prevalent in the West - most churches have a doctrine based on Replacement Theology**

- The greatest tragedy and the gravest heresy in the gentile church today
- RT is offensive to God because it calls him a liar and covenant breaker
- RT leads to Anti-Semitism in the church, and it can lead to apostasy

'But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.'

2 Peter 2:1-2

♣ **The Word and The Spirit - our guards against deception**

- **Check Everything with the Word of God**

'All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.'

2 Timothy 3:16-17

- **Ask the Holy Spirit if He agrees - listen to His voice within (sensing)**

''However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.''

John 16:13-14

- We can discern false teaching and false teachers, really quite simply:
 - Is what I'm hearing in agreement with the Word of God
 - Is this teaching based on words taken out of context (pretexts)
 - If you are still not sure - ask the Holy Spirit to show you and speak to you

• **The Battle Against Deception**

♣ **We are in a Spiritual Battle** - whether we like it or not, and whether we are aware of it or not; **the moment we become dedicated to the Lord we enter into a spiritual battle**

- Whilst we are unsaved, we are captives of Satan and sin; **when we are redeemed by Yeshua's blood through faith - Satan becomes our deadly foe - so we must '*Be strong in the Lord*' to resist him and his wiles**

'Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.'
Ephesians 6:1

♣ **We experience Satan in different ways - sometimes as tempter, sometimes as devourer, sometimes as slanderer, sometimes as accuser and sometimes as deceiver, even as an angel of light.**

- **Satan, the Deceiver, has his ways with men:**
 - ↪ Unregenerate – deceived by sin
 - ↪ Carnal Christian – deceived by compromise
 - ↪ Pious Christian – deceived by accusation
 - ↪ Spiritual Christian – deceived by wiles (subtle tricks, evil strategies and lying spirits)

♣ **It is the Spiritual Christian who is most at risk from deceptive teaching** - the man or woman who is seeking after the Lord, Satan tries to divert with deception - tricks, strategies and lies

♣ **Many of Satan's deceptions come from a Greek thinking interpretation of scripture - Chanukah reminds us to be 'Sons of Zion'**

♣ **The real danger for the Spiritual Christian is the Devil in his guise as deceiver or an angel of light** - it is the dedicated believer, the true disciple seeking wholeheartedly after God, who will experience the Devil's deceptive wiles (tricks, strategies and lies)

♣ **Sadly, many Christians are walking in blindness to the wiles of the enemy** – so they have fallen for the enemy's deceptions, and fallen victim to deceptions and false teachings

Chanukah's Message For Us Today

- **Rededication in Holiness**

- ♣ **At the heart of Chanukah is the re-dedication of what has become desecrated**

- ♣ **In all our lives there are times when we need to re-consecrate ourselves afresh**

'I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.' *Romans 12:1-2*

- **Holy - Holiness means...**

- ↳ **Being set apart, dedicated to a specific purpose or person**

- ↳ **Purity of heart and mind and devotion**

- ↳ **A sense of 'otherness' - not being like all the rest**

- **Acceptable - The Lord, who is holy, requires those who worship him to themselves be holy - clean, devoted, dedicated to Him**

- **Sacrifice - Holiness involves sacrifice...there is a cost**

- ♣ **Rededicating that which has become Desecrated**

- **Sometimes there are aspects of our lives which become desecrated - the holiness gets tainted with uncleanness; e.g., our work, or the way we spend our time, or a specific relationship, or even our marriage**

- **It means re-consecrating our minds and attitudes from conformity with the world (we all get our thinking contaminated by the world) to conformity with the Lord and His will and**

purposes

- ♣ **We have to consecrate ourselves to enter into the sanctuary**
 - **The priests of old could not enter the sanctuary to perform holy service or to worship without first ritually cleansing themselves**
 - **We, being born-again of the Spirit, can enter into His sanctuary - but we need to be clean**
 - ↪ **Yes, we are covered by Yeshua's blood - that is the ground of our salvation**
 - ↪ **But, we are called to Holiness - and that means dedication to the Lord and Rededication of that which has become desecrated**
 - ↪ **Uncleanness affects our relationship with the Lord**

- ♣ **Chanukah reminds us of the need for the re-dedication in holiness of our hearts and lives**

- **Re-Dedication of the Sanctuary**

- ♣ **The focus of Chanukah is on the Sanctuary - that place where the Lord meets with His people**

- ♣ **Sanctuary - one of the themes throughout scripture is that of the Lord desiring a Sanctuary where He may dwell with His people**

- **We see it in...**
 - ↪ **The Garden God Planted Genesis 2:8**
 - ↪ **The Tabernacle Exodus 25:8**

"And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them." Exodus 25:8

- ↪ **The New Covenant Jeremiah 31:33**

'But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God,

and they shall be My people.'

Jeremiah 31:33

→ Israel Restored

Ezekiel 37:26-28

"Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people. The nations also will know that I, the Lord, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore." Ezekiel 37:26-28

♣ **Chanukah reminds us that the Lord seeks to dwell with us**

- **In the innermost parts of our being, by His Spirit within us**
- **To commune with us, to be intimately one with us**
- **For Him to be our God and for us to be His people**
- **This is true corporately, as when we gather together like here at SYMF, but it is especially true individually**

♣ **Chanukah reminds us to make sure the sanctuary (our heart) is consecrated wholly unto the Lord**

- **This is so for us individually - re-dedicating every part of our lives, attitudes and thinking**
- **It is so for us corporately also, here today being re-dedicating what we do here to the Lord, for the holiness of worship and for His purposes not ours**
- **It is all about Holiness, being set apart for the Lord**

• **The Oil of Re-Dedication Will Not Run Out**

♣ **Chanukah reminds us of the oil which never runs out**

- **Oil is one of the idioms scripture uses to speak of the *Ruach HaKodesh* (the Holy Spirit)**

♣ **We Are 'Born Again' of the Spirit - when we repented and believed, the Lord put His Spirit within us - we were literally made alive spiritually when previously we were dead - by the Lord putting His Holy Spirit within us**

'Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit,

he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ”

John 3:5-6

♣ **'Be Filled with the Spirit' Ephesians 5:18**

- When we think about re-dedication, **we can tend to think 'I wish I had more of the Spirit'**
- **We misunderstand Paul's injunction** in Ephesians 5:18 to 'be filled with the Spirit'
- It is not a question of how much of the Holy Spirit have you got, but rather...**how much of you has the Holy Spirit got**
- **When you were 'born again' how much of the Holy Spirit did you receive?**
 - ↳ **The answer is all of Him!**
 - ↳ **You did not receive a cut down, pint-sized, beginners' version of the *Ruach HaKodesh* - you received all of Him**
 - ↳ **The whole of the third person of the Godhead is indwelling in you and me - amazing!!**
- **Being filled**; which we rightly should understand is said in the Greek 'present continuous' sense...that is be being filled; **is about letting the Holy Spirit have more and more and more of us**
 - ↳ Every part of our heart and every corner of our mind, and every aspect of our soul
 - ↳ This is by consecration - letting the Holy Spirit cleanse, renew and refine; not by 'impartation' (a present-day heresy)

♣ **The oil of the Holy Spirit will never run out**

- It will not last for just a day, or even for just eight days - **He is eternally living and active**
- **The more we allow Him to fill us, the more there still is**
- **The more of Him we share, the more we receive**

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will

be measured back to you."

Luke 6:38

- ♣ **Chanukah reminds us that the life giving and life changing resources of the Holy Spirit are **inexhaustible****

Chanukah Prophetically - A Hint (*Remez*) of the Prophetic

- **The Focus of Chanukah is the Re-Dedication of the Sanctuary**
- **Chanukah has a prophetic aspect too.**
 - ♣ **We can glimpse the hint (*the Remez*) by asking - why eight?**
 - Why were there eight days of oil from the one
 - And why are there eight branches on the menorah
 - And why is there a '*Shamash*', a servant light, in the centre?
- **The Place of Sanctuary Throughout the 'ages'**
 - ♣ **We have spoken about the Lord's desire throughout the scriptures for a sanctuary where He may dwell with His people**
 - **The First Six Millennia** - in our Hebraic understanding of the years, we know that **we are living at the end of the sixth millennium -and it is rapidly drawing to a close and a climax**
 - **Throughout these six millennia, the place of sanctuary has been the consecrated place of meeting:**
 - ↪ The Tabernacle
 - ↪ The Temple
 - ↪ His Body - the Church
 - ↪ In the Heart of all who come to Him in repentance and faith
 - **Now we are at the end of the sixth millennium**
 - ↪ These are the days the Lord describes as 'the beginning of sorrows' prior to the end of this 'age'

'And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom

against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.” *Matthew 24:4-8*

- ↪ And there is coming, at the end of this 'age', a time of great tribulation - spoken of by Yeshua in Matthew 24:15-28

“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation’, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place”... For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time...” *Matthew 24:15..21...*

- ↪ And then the Lord will return (Matthew 24:29-31)

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” *Matthew 24:29-31*

♣ **The Seventh Millennium - what follows thereafter is 'The Millennium', about which I have recently spoken**

- It is the seventh millennium - **Yeshua will rule and reign upon the earth**
- Then there will be **a sanctuary on the restored earth** - the Lord physically present and ruling and reigning and worshipped - and every knee will bow and every tongue confess that He Is Lord

♣ **The 8th 'branch' of the Chanukiah...**

♣ **But there are eight branches on the Chanukiah - prophetically hinting at what follows the seventh millennium - 8 'New Beginnings', 'Shamash' in the centre**

- **Not an eighth millennium, but rather the New Jerusalem**
- **A Holy City, an Eternal place of Sanctuary**
 - ↪ Where God dwells with His people
 - ↪ His people...that one new man of Jew and Gentile
 - ↪ No need for a temple there, for the whole city is a sanctuary where God dwells with His people

'Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had

passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. "'
Revelation 21:1-3

- ♣ **This Holy City is the Fulfilment of God's desire for a sanctuary**
 - **Where He may dwell with His people**
- ♣ **This Holy City, this sanctuary, will be adorned with Light in every part**
 - **No need for a temple there, for the whole city is a sanctuary where God dwells with His people**
 - **In the midst will be the source of that light...the Servant Light...the Light of the World...the Lamb**

'But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.'
Revelation 21:22-23

- **The Prophetic Hint of Chanukah**
 - ♣ **A Vision of Our Eternal Destiny (like Sukkot)**
 - ♣ **As we see the prophetic vision that Chanukah gives us - **Let us rededicate ourselves that we shall be ready in holiness to enter into the eternal sanctuary****

'But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.' *Revelation 21:27*

- ♣ **For in the Eternal Sanctuary - the Lord Almighty will be our God - and we shall be His people**

Happy Chanukah

John Godfrey 2016.