

Notes: December 20, 2014

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Meet and Greet
2. Introduction (if new people)
3. Ma Tovv
4. Open in Prayer for service
5. Liturgy – Sh'ma +
6. Announcements
7. Praise and Worship Songs
8. Message
9. Aaronic Blessing
10. Kiddush
11. Oneg

Children's Blessing:

Transliteration: *Ye'simcha Elohim ke-Ephraim ve hee-Menashe*

English: *May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe*

Transliteration: *Ye'simech Elohim ke-Sarah, Rivka, Rachel ve-Leah.*

English: *May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.*

Introduction: Hanukkah Message

Approximately 325 years before Yeshua, Alexander the Great conquered Syria, Egypt and Israel, but allowed the lands under his control to continue observing their own religions. Everything was so good, many Jews assimilated into the Hellenistic culture, adopting the language, the customs and the dress of the Greeks.

Sound familiar? It should, as, Jews, Messianic Jews and Christians have assimilated into American culture.

Antiochus IV came to power. He began to oppress the Jews. He put one of his priests in the Temple, he killed Jews, he made it against the law to practice the Jewish religion, and he had pigs sacrificed in the Temple.

Mattathias and his son Judah Maccabee led a revolution, and even though they were greatly outnumbered, after many tough battles – they won. They went to rededicate the Temple and found it was a mess. According to tradition as recorded in the Talmud (rabbi's commentary), at the time of the rededication, there was very little oil left to light the Temple menorah (candelabrum). There was only enough oil to burn for one day. Yet a miracle happened, it burned for eight days! An eight day festival was declared to remember this miracle.

Hanukkah is not mentioned anywhere in the Hebrew scripture, just in the New Covenant: John 10:22 says, "Then came Hanukkah in Yerushalayim. It was winter, and Yeshua was walking around inside the Temple area, in Shlomo's Colonnade.

We get much of our information about Hanukkah from the Apocrypha – a selection of 15 books which were published in the original 1611 King James Bible. These apocryphal books were positioned between the Tanakh and Brith

Hadoshah. These 15 books are part of the Catholic canonization of the Bible, but are not part of the Protestant, Jewish, or Messianic Jewish Bible.

For Jewish people around the world, Hanukkah reminds us that there were people vehemently against us and our way of life, Adonai's way of life, to whom they had imposed their own system upon us. To the point where they even outlawed our way of life.

Haman attempted to do the same thing many years earlier. Many others have tried to eliminate the Jewish people from the face of the earth.

Yet for one reason and one reason only are a people who for nearly 2 millennia were able to exist without a land –

Were able to survive and prosper in the face of persecution

Adonai and the promises He made to our ancestors.

Sure there is the pageantry and tradition that has been incorporated into the celebration of Hanukkah. The candles, the dreidels, the latkes, the story. However, let us not lose sight of what Hanukkah is...

It commemorates the rededication of the Temple in order for it to be functional within the confines of what Adonai has instructed.

In reality, Hanukkah, meaning dedication, is actually a rededication of the Temple.

We read about the rededication in 1 Maccabees, the fourth chapter.

41 Then Judas appointed certain men to fight against those that were in the fortress, until he had cleansed the sanctuary.

42 So he chose priests of blameless conversation, such as had pleasure in the law:

43 Who cleansed the sanctuary, and bare out the defiled stones into an unclean place.

44 And when as they consulted what to do with the altar of burnt offerings, which was profaned;

45 They thought it best to pull it down, lest it should be a reproach to them, because the heathen had defiled it: wherefore they pulled it down,

46 And laid up the 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 candlestick, and the altar of burnt offerings, and of incense, and the table.

50 And upon the altar they burned incense, and the lamps that were upon the candlestick they lighted, that they might give light in the temple.

51 Furthermore they set the loaves upon the table, and spread out the veils, and finished all the works which they had begun to make.

52 Now on the five and twentieth day of the ninth month, which is called the month Casleu, in the hundred forty and eighth year, they rose up betimes in the morning,

53 And offered sacrifice according to the law upon the new altar of burnt offerings, which they had made.

54 Look, at what time and what day the heathen had profaned it, even in that was it dedicated with songs, and citherns, and harps, and cymbals.

55 Then all the people fell upon their faces, worshipping and praising the God of heaven, who had given them good success.

56 And so they kept the dedication of the altar eight days and offered burnt offerings with gladness, and sacrificed the sacrifice of deliverance and praise.

The rededication was to cleanse the Temple of all the foreign elements that had defiled it through pagans worship.

We are talking the worship of other gods
Sacrifices to these other gods

Pigs sacrificed, their blood poured out to the Greek god Zeus

Notice that they didn't attempt to reuse, or clean anything “not nailed down” but built everything new.

47 Then they took whole stones according to the law, and built a new altar according to the former;

49 They made also new holy vessels, and into the temple they brought the candlestick, and the altar of burnt offerings, and of incense, and the table.

Once something has been defiled from its original form, no matter what you do, it can not be returned to its predefined, pristine form. We see this throughout scripture:

You will receive a new body
The new heavens and the new earth.

So, in the case of the Temple, it was not only cleansed but in essence received a “face lift”

New altar, new vessels

If there was a rededication, there must have been a dedication, when it was first opened. To find out more about that we can read 1 Kings 8 and 2 Chronicles 7

The initial dedication of the Temple included placing the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies.

1Ki 8:5 King Shlomo and the whole community of Isra'el assembled in his presence were with him in front of the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen in numbers beyond counting or recording.

1Ki 8:6 The cohanim brought the ark for the covenant of Adonai in to its place inside the sanctuary of the house, to the Especially Holy Place, under the wings of the k'ruvim.

When the Ark had been place, we read...

1Ki 8:10 When the cohanim came out of the Holy Place, the cloud filled the house of Adonai,

1Ki 8:11 so that, because of the cloud, the cohanim could not stand up to perform their service; for the glory of Adonai filled the house of Adonai.

The construction of the Temple was the culmination of a promise Adonai made to David. It wouldn't be him who would construct a place for Adonai to dwell – a desire of his heart, but that it would be his son Solomon.

1Ki 8:14 Then the king turned around and blessed the whole community of Isra'el. The whole community of Isra'el

stood

1Ki 8:15 as he said: "Blessed be Adonai, the God of Isra'el, who spoke to my father David with his mouth and fulfilled his promise with his hand. He said,

Solomon recognized the faithfulness of the God of Israel

1Ki 8:22 Then Shlomo stood before the altar of Adonai in the presence of the whole community of Isra'el, spread out his hands toward heaven,

1Ki 8:23 and said, "Adonai, God of Isra'el, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below. You keep covenant with your servants and show them grace, provided they live in your presence with all their heart.

And it would be the construction of this place where Adonai' Name would be that would be the focal point of Israel

1Ki 8:28 Even so, Adonai my God, pay attention to your servant's prayer and plea, listen to the cry and prayer that your servant is praying before you today,

1Ki 8:29 that your eyes will be open toward this house night and day — toward the place concerning which you said, 'My name will be there' — to listen to the prayer your servant will pray toward this place.

1Ki 8:30 Yes, listen to the plea of your servant, and also that of your people Isra'el when they pray toward this place. Hear in heaven where you live; and when you hear, forgive!

1Ki 8:31 "If a person sins against a fellow member of the community, and he is made to swear under oath, and he comes and swears before your altar in this house;

1Ki 8:32 then hear in heaven, act, and judge your servants, condemning the wicked, so that his way of life devolves on his own head, and vindicating the one who is right, giving him what his righteousness deserves.

Just as Ya'akov's ladder was the vessel that connected Heaven with earth, the Temple was that connection for Israel when they resided in the land.

A place where Adonai resided.

This dedication was of a new building, pristine, never been used. Holy.

It would become the focal point of Israel and the communities that surrounded it. It was the place where men would go, who were instructed to go to Jerusalem 3 times a year.

It was where you brought your tithe.

It was where you would bring your offerings

It is where atonement would be made on a yearly basis for the community of Israel

Needless to say, it was the focal point of Israel.

1Ki 8:33 "When your people Isra'el sin against you and in consequence are defeated by an enemy; then if they turn back to you, acknowledge your name, and pray and make their plea to you in this house;

1Ki 8:34 hear in heaven, forgive the sin of your people Isra'el, and bring them back to the land you gave to their ancestors.

1Ki 8:35 "When they sin against you, and in consequence the sky is shut, so that there is no rain; then, if they pray toward this place, acknowledge your name and turn from their sin when you have brought them low;

1Ki 8:36 hear in heaven, forgive the sin of your servants and of your people Isra'el — since you keep teaching them the good way by which they should live — and send down rain on your land, which you have given your people as their inheritance.

Even for people outside of Israel, the presence of Adonai would become known to where they would journey because of Him.

- 1Ki 8:41** "Also the foreigner who does not belong to your people Isra'el — when he comes from a distant country because of your reputation
1Ki 8:42 (for they will hear of your great reputation, your mighty hand and your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this house;
1Ki 8:43 then hear in heaven where you live, and act in accordance with everything about which the foreigner is calling to you; so that all the peoples of the earth will know your name and fear you, as does your people Isra'el, and so that they will know that this house which I have built bears your name.

Consider the final words of Solomon during the dedication of the Temple:

- 1Ki 8:54** When Shlomo had finished praying all this prayer and plea to Adonai, he got up from in front of the altar of Adonai, where he had been kneeling with his hands spread out toward heaven,
1Ki 8:55 stood up, and raised his voice to bless the whole community of Isra'el. He said,
1Ki 8:56 "Blessed be Adonai, who has given rest to his people Isra'el, in accordance with everything he promised. Not one word has failed of his good promise, which he made through Moshe his servant.
1Ki 8:57 May Adonai our God be with us, as he was with our ancestors. May he never leave us or abandon us.
1Ki 8:58 In this way he will incline our hearts toward him, so that we will live according to his ways and observe his mitzvot, laws and rulings which he ordered our fathers to obey.
1Ki 8:59 May these words of mine, which I have used in my plea before Adonai, be present with Adonai our God day and night, so that he will uphold the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Isra'el day by day.
1Ki 8:60 Then all the peoples of the earth will know that Adonai is God; there is no other.
1Ki 8:61 So be wholehearted with Adonai our God, living by his laws and observing his mitzvot, as you are doing today."

These last two verses apply to us today.

Solomon is in essence also looking forward to what would be a New Covenant where the peoples of the earth would know Adonai.

But you say, well today there is no Temple standing.

Has God forgotten His promises?

Joh 2:19 Yeshua answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up again."

Joh 2:20 The Judeans said, "It took 46 years to build this Temple, and you're going to raise it in three days?"

Joh 2:21 But the "temple" he had spoken of was his body.

Joh 2:22 Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his talmidim remembered that he had said this, and they trusted in the Tanakh and in what Yeshua had said.

1Co 6:19 Or don't you know that your body is a temple for the Ruach HaKodesh who lives inside you, whom you received from God? The fact is, you don't belong to yourselves;

1Co 6:20 for you were bought at a price. So use your bodies to glorify God.

The power of Adonai resides within you.

When was the last time you rededicated your temple to God?

When was the last time you purged the defiled aspects of your life from your Temple, in which the Ruach ha Kodesh, the Glory of God resides in order to be and do as Solomon stated?

Are you letting the influences of the world defile your Temple?

As a believer, you are to set yourself apart from the influences and corruption of the world, not adopt and therefore incorporate these influences into your lifestyle and worship.

You are to be set apart to God.

How fitting a time to purge your Temple of these things that may be defiling your walk with Adonai through Yeshua. Hanukkah is a time to start fresh with new oil, a new altar and new instruments to be utilized in your Temple.

If you are not a believer, and you accept the Message of Messiah you are in essence dedicating yourself to Adonai through Yeshua.

I have conveyed Messiah's message the last few weeks. It is simple. In Yeshua's own words -

Luk 24:44 *Yeshua said to them, "This is what I meant when I was still with you and told you that everything written about me in the Torah of Moshe, the Prophets and the Psalms had to be fulfilled."*

Luk 24:45 Then he opened their minds, so that they could understand the Tanakh,

Luk 24:46 telling them, "Here is what it says: the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day;

Luk 24:47 and in his name repentance leading to forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed to people from all nations, starting with Yerushalayim.

On this Feast of Re-Dedication let us be mindful of the amazing rich imagery found in Messiah:

Hanukkah is celebrated using a special Hanukkah menorah with nine lights. One uses a match to light the shammash ("servant"), and it is then employed to light one candle the first night, two the second, and so on until on the eighth night all eight lights and the shammash are burning brightly.

Yeshua, the "light of the world" ([Joh 8:12](#)),

Joh 8:12 Yeshua spoke to them again: "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light which gives life."

Came as a servant ([Mar 10:45](#))

Mar 10:45 For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve — and to give his life as a ransom for many."

To give light to everyone ([Joh 1:4-5](#)),

Joh 1:4 In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind.

Joh 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not suppressed it.

So that we might be lights to others ([Mat 5:14](#)).

Mat 5:14 "You are light for the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

Mat 5:15 Likewise, when people light a lamp, they don't cover it with a bowl but put it on a lamp stand, so that it shines for everyone in the house.

Mat 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before people, so that they may see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.

Let your light shine so that others will see it.

Back in September I shared a video previewing a movie that was to be released on video in December. That movie is called "Marching to Zion". If you are to judge a book, or in this case a video by its cover (title) it would appear to be a pro-Israel piece. Unfortunately, this couldn't be farther from the truth. In actuality, it is an anti-Israel, anti-Jewish video amplifying the false teaching of Replacement Theology. Below is an article conveying recent information from those who were asked to contribute to the video.

I have also provided a link to the article that includes the promotional video, so you will have a reference point for the article below.

Rawstory – Scott Kaufman

[Anti-gay Arizona pastor tricks Holocaust survivor into appearing in his anti-Semitic film](#)

<http://www.rawstory.com/rs/2014/12/anti-gay-arizona-pastor-tricks-holocaust-survivor-into-appearing-in-his-anti-semitic-film/>

An anti-gay pastor in Tempe, Arizona — who recently [came under fire](#) for statements about an "AIDS-free Christmas" — is courting controversy again after the *Jewish News* [reported](#) that he tricked area rabbis into participating in an anti-Semitic documentary he is making.

According to the *Jewish News*, pastor Steven Anderson contacted Rabbi Leo Abrami, a Holocaust survivor, and claimed to be making a film that explained tenets of the Jewish faith to a Christian audience. He identified himself as "an interested layperson" to Rabbi Abrami, who took him at his word.

However, when Anderson contacted Rabbi Irwin Wiener, he claimed to be producing a documentary for PBS. "The subterfuge that he used to get these interviews from us is beyond belief," Wiener told the *Jewish News*. "When he used the words PBS to me, it sounded legitimate and I didn't pursue it any further."

Both Abrami and Wiener signed releases allowing Anderson to use material from those interviews in his film — which is actually called *Marching to Zion*, and according to the promotional video that Anderson made for it, the purpose of the film is "to prove that the Jews are no longer God's chosen people in the New Testament but that we as believers, we as Christians, are God's chosen people [and] that the modern-day nation of Israel over in the Middle East is a complete fraud."

After showing images of Abrami and Wiener, Anderson said that "[t]hey're making all the points for us. They're all saying the same things and confirming what we show from the Bible to be true."

But Abrami told the *Jewish News* that he intends to take legal action against Anderson. "The pastor misrepresented himself. He was lying to me all along," he said. "I'm not letting it go. Whenever I can, I will fight back."

Messianic Jewishness? Is that even a word? Is there a problem here? Where is their Cross?

One of my dear Christian friends attends a Messianic Jewish Fellowship. I just received a Happy Hanukkah greeting card from him, with a beautiful Menorah, encouraging me that my candles burn long and to enjoy and celebrate with a full table and many good friends..

I gave him a call to thank him and "chat" a bit.. He confirmed that he was having a Happy Hanukkah. I prompted him a bit and he said that in his congregation they observed the Torah , the Jewish feasts, the keeping of the Law etc., etc. shut down Friday nights and observed the true sabbath et al.. There was a mention of Yeshua, he said that Jesus observed the Torah, as well but when I asked him about the real meaning of Christmas, he saw no emphasis on salvation through Christ alone.

I remember being in Israel a few years ago and on one occasion ran into a large number of Messianic Jews and two of their Rabbis.. Neither rabbi was a born Jew.. nor were most of the group.. They were intent on the time in buying shofars to use in their 'services.'

Because I am a Jew by birth, although a born again Christian, I asked a Jewish Rabbinical school leader about this desire of people, even those who have no Jewish Lineage, to be "Messianic Jews."

He simply said if you are a Jew, be a Jew, if you are a Christian, be a Christian. Stop being a fool and think you can be a Jew when you are not a Jew..

Well, Is this an appropriate form of worship and fellowship as a Christian or does it denigrate Jesus and His Gift at Calvary.???