

Notes: December 16, 2017

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. Jeri - Drash
8. Praise and Worship Songs
9. Message
10. Aaronic Blessing
11. Kiddush
12. 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: On This Hanukkah

As part of our ongoing presentation of God's Names, this week's selection Adonai Orlee – The Lord is my Light offers some interesting insight. Jeri shared this with you earlier...

During the time of the Maccabees, the heroes of the Hanukkah story, there were those in Israel who trusted in God and there were those who sided with the Greek oppressors. The second group of Israelites embraced the Greek culture, although it contradicted the Word of Adonai, and considered themselves "enlightened." They had Greek art, philosophy, mathematics, and science. Who needed the Word of Adonai?

We read in Acts 6:1

Act 6:1 Around this time, when the number of talmidim was growing, the Greek-speaking Jews began complaining against those who spoke Hebrew that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution.

We see a division between Greek-speaking Jews and non-Greek-speaking Jews

The division between Greek-speaking and Hebrew-speaking (or culturally Greek and culturally Hebrew) Jews dates from the conquest of Eretz-Israel by Alexander the Great in 323 B.C.E. He and his successors introduced the Greek language and Greek culture into the lands they ruled. While Hellenistic influence produced such fruits as the Septuagint, Philo of Alexandria and Josephus, "Hebraists" considered the "Hellenists" to have developed an adulterated Judaism which had assimilated elements of the pagan cultures around them-although the Judaism of the Hebrew-speakers had not avoided these influences either. The Maccabean Revolt (see [Joh 10:22](#)) contains elements of intra-Jewish struggle related to this issue. In any case, groups which are different from each other can usually find excuses for deprecating each other.

Hanukkah, the Feast of Dedication, in which Jews since 164 B.C.E. have celebrated the victory of the Makkabim over Antiochus IV, king of Syria. This is the earliest mention of the holiday in all literature and the only mention of it in the Bible, since the Tanakh was completed before that date (the book of Daniel contains prophecy about the event celebrated). The apocryphal books, 1, 2, 3, and 4 Maccabees, present historical and other perspectives on what happened.

Antiochus, recently defeated in Egypt, expressed his frustration by attacking Judea, ruthlessly slaughtering men, women and children, and invading the Temple. There he carried off the golden altar, menorahs and vessels; and to show his contempt for the God of Israel he sacrificed there a pig to Zeus. He forbade circumcision, observing Shabbat and keeping kosher, and commanded that only pigs be sacrificed in the Temple; he himself cooked a pig in the Temple and poured its broth on the holy Torah scrolls and on the altar.

It seems that Jews have always been on the short end of the world's stick. Some is due to our own self inflicted wounds in transgressing Adonai and His Word, while at other times it is the world inflicting itself upon the Jewish people. Such a small number of people, yet so highly sought after. In my opinion this conveys the importance of the Jewish people for God's plan and the fear of the adversary of God's plan. That plan being Salvation being made available to the world by the reconciliation of God's provision of Yeshua being a kapparah, an atonement for our transgression and ultimate defeat of the adversary and his deceptive intentions.

Remember a few week's ago, my message about Salvation – it is of the Jews...meaning, Adonai would use this people to bring forth His message of Messiah, forgiveness of sin, righteous living through His Word, Torah and ultimate victory from the adversary.

Sha'ul conveys...

Rom 10:20 Moreover, Yesha`yahu boldly says, "I was found by those who were not looking for me, I became known to those who did not ask for me";

Rom 10:21 but to Isra'el he says, "All day long I held out my hands to a people who kept disobeying and contradicting."

To which Sha'ul asks rhetorically...

Rom 11:1 "In that case, I say, isn't it that God has repudiated his people?" Heaven forbid! For I myself am a son of Isra'el, from the seed of Avraham, of the tribe of Binyamin.

Rom 11:2 God has not repudiated his people, whom he chose in advance. Or don't you know what the Tanakh says about Eliyahu? He pleads with God against Isra'el,

Rom 11:3 "Adonai, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars, and I'm the only one left, and now they want to kill me too!"

Rom 11:4 But what is God's answer to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not knelt down to Ba`al."

Rom 11:5 It's the same way in the present age: there is a remnant, chosen by grace.

Israel probably has the most documented history and is known by billions of people, in that it is canonized in the most popular book ever printed.

Yet as many look upon Israel and the Jewish people in many different ways, it is not anyone other than the Jewish people that Adonai has made His Covenants.

And yet, Israel would be the object of persecution, at the hands of nations...the very nations Adonai had conveyed...

Be a light, in other words, be my light to the nations regarding my truth.

Syrian officers were dispatched to enforce these cruel and blasphemous decrees. One day when the Syrian officer in Modi'in commanded Mattityahu HaMakkabi (Mattathias the Maccabee or Hammer), head of a family of cohanim, to sacrifice a pig, he and his five sons killed the first Jew to comply (see [Act 6:1](#)) and then killed the officer and his soldiers. This was the start of a rebellion. After Mattityahu's death his son Y'hudah (Judas

Maccabeus, about whom Handel wrote his oratorio so named) assembled a number of courageous Jews and led them to victory over the Syrians, first in guerilla warfare, then later in open battle. On the 25th of Kislev they rededicated the Temple and consecrated a new altar. The ner tamid ("eternal light") was relit, but there was only enough consecrated olive oil to keep it burning for one day, and it would take a week to prepare more. By a miracle of God reported in the book of 2 Maccabees the light burned for eight days, by which time a new supply had been prepared. For this reason Jews celebrate Hanukkah for eight days, starting on Kislev 25, which can fall between November 27 and December 27.

On Hanukkah, we commemorate a time when the Temple was rededicated. Its defiled insides were purged and replaced with a new inside.

Even though there is not a physical Temple standing, there is a Temple that exists for each one of us...

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.

Prior, Sha'ul lists a multitude of transgressions that ultimately defile the Temple where the Ruach ha Kodesh resides, concluding with...

1Co 6:11 Some of you used to do these things. But you have cleansed yourselves, you have been set apart for God, you have come to be counted righteous through the power of the Lord Yeshua the Messiah and the Spirit of our God.

You have cleansed yourselves...you have dedicated or rededicated yourselves – Hanukkah.

And Sha'ul takes this a step further...

1Co 15:31 Brothers, by the right to be proud which the Messiah Yeshua our Lord gives me, I solemnly tell you that I die every day.

Sha'ul says this as part of what would lead to his conveying of the resurrection and return of Messiah. As Yeshua died once and for all...

Die to self and dedicate yourselves daily to Adonai.

Heb 9:27 Just as human beings have to die once, but after this comes judgment,

Heb 9:28 so also the Messiah, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to deliver those who are eagerly waiting for him.

We need to die daily to self and experience His resurrection daily..

In dying to self daily, we are in essence experiencing Hanukkah each day.

Hanukkah means – dedication

Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Temple after its defilement at the hands of Antiochus.

The Temple was purged of all that had been defiled, cleansed and rededicated for service to the God of Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'akov.

Rom 3:21 But now, quite apart from Torah, God's way of making people righteous in his sight has been made clear – although the Torah and the Prophets give their witness to it as well –

Rom 3:22 and it is a righteousness that comes from God, through the faithfulness of Yeshua the Messiah, to all who continue trusting. For it makes no difference whether one is a Jew or a Gentile,

Rom 3:23 since all have sinned and come short of earning God's praise.

Rom 3:24 By God's grace, without earning it, all are granted the status of being considered righteous before him, through the act redeeming us from our enslavement to sin that was accomplished by the Messiah Yeshua.

Rom 3:25 God put Yeshua forward as the kapparrah for sin through his faithfulness in respect to his bloody sacrificial

death. This vindicated God's righteousness; because, in his forbearance, he had passed over [*with neither punishment nor remission*] the sins people had committed in the past;

Rom 3:26 and it vindicates his righteousness in the present age by showing that he is righteous himself and is also the one who makes people righteous on the ground of Yeshua's faithfulness.

So, on this Hanukkah, on this Feast of Dedication, let us rededicate ourselves to you Adonai.