

Notes: December 28, 2019

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Meet and Greet
2. Introduction (if new people)
3. Ma Tov
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: Yeshua's Hanukkah Sermon?

Does Yeshua have a Hanukkah sermon?

In order to get there, let's first look back for a moment at a brief history regarding Hanukkah...

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.

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 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.

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 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.

Tradition conveys a miracle of God the light burned for eight days, by which time a new supply had been prepared. For this reason people are taught that Jews celebrate *Hanukkah* for eight days, starting on Kislev 25, which can fall between November 27 and December 27.

So, you have a background regarding the reason why we celebrate Hanukkah. Keeping in mind there are many traditions wrapped around this day that I did not elaborate on, but wanted to provide you with the facts of this time.

So, now we come to the only canonized Scripture that you will see the Hanukkah referenced.

Joh 10:22 Then came Hanukkah in Yerushalayim. It was winter,

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.

The next verse provides with a context and backdrop for what will transpire.

Joh 10:23 and Yeshua was walking around inside the Temple area, in Shlomo's Colonnade.

Yeshua is in the very place that was rededicated nearly 2 centuries ago and is walking the very same grounds of the Temple...

1 Maccabees recounts the following...

41Judas appointed men to attack those in the citadel, while he purified the sanctuary.

42He chose blameless priests, devoted to the law;

43these purified the sanctuary and carried away the stones of the defilement to an unclean place.

44They deliberated what ought to be done with the altar for burnt offerings that had been desecrated.ⁱ

45They decided it best to tear it down, lest it be a lasting shame to them that the Gentiles had defiled it; so they tore down the altar.

46They stored the stones in a suitable place on the temple mount, until the coming of a prophet who could determine what to do with them.^j

47Then they took uncut stones, according to the law, and built a new altar like the former one.^k

48They also repaired the sanctuary and the interior of the temple and consecrated the courts.

49They made new sacred vessels and brought the lampstand, the altar of incense, and the table into the temple.^l

50Then they burned incense on the altar and lighted the lamps on the lampstand, and these illuminated the temple.

51They also put loaves on the table and hung up the curtains. Thus they finished all the work they had undertaken.

52They rose early on the morning of the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, that is, the month of Kislev, in the year one hundred and forty-eight,^{*}

53and offered sacrifice according to the law on the new altar for burnt offerings that they had made.^m

So, you have an account of what transpired prior to Hanukkah, an immense restoration project was underway. An account that Jews at the time of Yeshua would have known about.

Here is where it gets interesting.

Joh 10:24 So the Judeans surrounded him and said to him, "How much longer are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us publicly!"

How much longer are you going to keep us in suspense?

Are you or aren't you?

Personally, I am rather surprised by this question. Tell us publicly...what do you think Yeshua has been doing for the last three years?

Now we are at the time where the backdrop is Hanukkah. A passage of the Brith Hadoshah that easily gets glossed over or even passed over as not really significant.

And yet, it is this backdrop that provides us with the clue to the message of Yeshua for Hanukkah, meaning dedication.

Could He be alluding to our dedication to Adonai and therefore our dedication to the one whom Adonai has sent?

Joh 10:25 Yeshua answered them, "I have already told you, and you don't trust me. The works I do in my Father's name testify on my behalf,

Joh 10:26 but the reason you don't trust is that you are not included among my sheep.

54 On the anniversary of the day on which the Gentiles had desecrated it, on that very day it was rededicated with songs, harps, lyres, and cymbals.

55 All the people prostrated themselves and adored and praised Heaven, who had given them success.

56 For eight days they celebrated the dedication of the altar and joyfully offered burnt offerings and sacrifices of deliverance and praise.

57 They ornamented the facade of the temple with gold crowns and shields; they repaired the gates and the priests' chambers and furnished them with doors.

58 There was great joy among the people now that the disgrace brought by the Gentiles was removed.

59 Then Judas and his brothers and the entire assembly of Israel decreed that every year for eight days, from the twenty-fifth day of the month Kislev, ⁿ the days of the dedication ^{*} of the altar should be observed with joy and gladness on the anniversary.

Joh 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice, I recognize them, they follow me,

Joh 10:28 and I give them eternal life. They will absolutely never be destroyed, and no one will snatch them from my hands.

Joh 10:29 My Father, who gave them to me, is greater than all; and no one can snatch them from the Father's hands.

Joh 10:30 I and the Father are one."

Again, Yeshua points to the Father, Adonai.

Yeshua is conveying that those who trust me, those who follow me...know me, they follow my voice and me...

So, what is it that is casting doubt still on these Judeans who have confronted him. "tell us"

I believe the answer is found in 2 Maccabees chapter 5...

First, I want you to keep in mind that 1 Maccabees and 2 Maccabees are not sequential, meaning the narrative in 1 Maccabees does not continue in 2 Maccabees, but rather they are parallel, in that we have two accounts of the same events. Each also has events that the other doesn't cover or elaborate on, such as this one verse in 2 Maccabees...

5On the anniversary of the day on which the temple had been profaned by the foreigners, that is, the twenty-fifth of the same month Kislev, the purification of the temple took place.

6The Jews celebrated joyfully for eight days as on the feast of Booths, remembering how, a little while before, they had spent the feast of Booths living like wild animals in the mountains and in caves.

7Carrying rods entwined with leaves,^{*} beautiful branches and palms, they sang hymns of grateful praise to him who had successfully brought about the purification of his own place.

8By public decree and vote they prescribed that the whole Jewish nation should celebrate these days every year.

Just as on the feast of Booths...

What is this feast?

But just another name for Sukkot.

On Sukkot, Yeshua again was in the Temple Court...

Joh 8:2 At daybreak, he appeared again in the Temple Court, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them.

This time he is confronted by the P'rushim with a woman caught in the act of adultery...

I won't go into the details because I have covered this in other sermons and during Torah study.

What is drawn from this encounter, but in Yeshua's own words to all standing around Him including the woman...

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."

What was Yeshua's accusation earlier...

Joh 10:25 Yeshua answered them, "I have already told you, and you don't trust me. The works I do in my Father's name testify on my behalf,

Joh 10:26 but the reason you don't trust is that you are not included among my sheep.

If you didn't listen the first time when I told you in the Temple on Sukkot...

Once again, many were offended by the message, calling it blasphemy...

Joh 10:31 Once again the Judeans picked up rocks in order to stone him.

Joh 10:32 Yeshua answered them, "You have seen me do many good deeds that reflect the Father's power; for which one of these deeds are you stoning me?"

Joh 10:33 The Judeans replied, "We are not stoning you for any good deed, but for blasphemy — because you, who are only a man, are making yourself out to be God [*Hebrew: Elohim*]."

Joh 10:34 Yeshua answered them, "Isn't it written in your Torah, 'I have said, "You people are Elohim' "?

Joh 10:35 If he called 'elohim' the people to whom the word of Elohim was addressed (and the Tanakh cannot be broken),

Joh 10:36 then are you telling the one whom the Father set apart as holy and sent into the world, 'You are committing blasphemy,' just because I said, 'I am a son of Elohim'?

Yet here you have the confounding of the wise wrapped up in these verses.

Joh 10:37 "If I am not doing deeds that reflect my Father's power, don't trust me.

Joh 10:38 But if I am, then, even if you don't trust me, trust the deeds; so that you may understand once and for all that the Father is united with me, and I am united with the Father."

He is not calling Himself Adonai the Father...yet Yeshua is conveying that they are united. We will see this aspect of Yeshua play out further in Yochanan 14 where He ultimately makes this statement...

Joh 14:6 Yeshua said, "I AM the Way — and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through me.

Joh 14:7 Because you have known me, you will also know my Father; from now on, you do know him — in fact, you have seen him."

A not so insignificant play on words by Yeshua...

Joh 10:39 One more time they tried to arrest him, but he slipped out of their hands.

Joh 10:40 He went off again beyond the Yarden, where Yochanan had been immersing at first, and stayed there.

Joh 10:41 Many people came to him and said, "Yochanan performed no miracles, but everything Yochanan said about this man was true."

Joh 10:42 And many people there put their trust in him.

They arrested Him, Yet on Sukkot there were those that heard and believed...

Joh 7:37 Now on the last day of the festival, Hoshana Rabbah, Yeshua stood and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him keep coming to me and drinking!

Joh 7:38 Whoever puts his trust in me, as the Scripture says, rivers of living water will flow from his inmost being!"

Joh 7:39 (Now he said this about the Spirit, whom those who trusted in him were to receive later — the Spirit had not yet been given, because Yeshua had not yet been glorified.)

Joh 7:40 On hearing his words, some people in the crowd said, "Surely this man is 'the prophet' ";

Joh 7:41 others said, "This is the Messiah." But others said, "How can the Messiah come from the Galil?

Joh 7:42 Doesn't the Tanakh say that the Messiah is from the seed of David and comes from Beit-Lechem, the village where David lived?"

Joh 7:43 So the people were divided because of him.

Joh 7:44 Some wanted to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him.

On this Hanukkah, know the messenger, not just His message.

His message, His sermon is found on Sukkot and is the same for Hanukkah, not to mention for any moad...any

appointed time...not to mention for any time.

Know that He is the Living Water and the Light of the World.

Hanukkah may have taken the mantle of the festival of lights, but before there was Hanukkah there was Sukkot, when the Light of the World revealed Himself as such.

Be sure to pass it on...