



חנוכה שמח

Happy Hanukkah

2021



Outside of
Israel
(there)

ש

Inside of
Israel
(here)

פ



The Legends and Traditions of Hanukkah



The oil lasted for 8 nights



Jelly doughnuts



Latkes



Dreidel

Events That Led Up To Hanukkah

After the Babylonian exile the nation of Israel was weak and the Levitical priesthood was in disarray. About 175 BC The position of High Priest was purchased by Jason from Antiochus IV (2 Maccabees 4; 7-8), When Seleucus died and Antiochus who was called Epiphanes succeeded to the kingdom, Jason the brother of Onias obtained the high priesthood by corruption, promising the king at an interview three hundred and sixty talents of silver and, from another source of revenue, eighty talents.

Most of us know the famous beginning to the Maccabean revolt when Mattathias Maccabee killed a priest who was willing to sacrifice a pig on the alter along with the king's officer. His famous battle cry of "Let every one who is zealous for the law and supports the covenant come out with me!" (1 Maccabees 2; 27) began a war that seemed impossible to win.

What Israel Was Facing...

1 Mac. 3; 27 - 29,

When King Antiochus heard these reports, he was greatly angered; and he sent and gathered all the forces of his kingdom, a very strong army. And he opened his coffers and gave a year's pay to his forces, and ordered them to be ready for any need. Then he saw that the money in the treasury was exhausted, and that the revenues from the country were small because of the dissension and disaster which he had caused in the land by abolishing the laws that had existed from the earliest days.

1 Mac. 3; 34 - 39

And he turned over to Lysias half of his troops and the elephants, and gave him orders about all that he wanted done. As for the residents of Judea and Jerusalem, Lysias was to send a force against them to wipe out and destroy the strength of Israel and the remnant of Jerusalem; he was to banish the memory of them from the place, settle aliens in all their territory, and distribute their land. Then the king took the remaining half of his troops and departed from Antioch his capital in the one hundred and forty-seventh year. He crossed the Euphrates river and went through the upper provinces. Lysias chose Ptolemy the son of Dorymenes, and Nicanor and Gorgias, mighty men among the friends of the king, and sent with them forty thousand infantry and seven thousand cavalry to go into the land of Judah and destroy it, as the king had commanded.

1 Mac. 3; 45

Jerusalem was uninhabited like a wilderness; not one of her children went in or out. The sanctuary was trampled down, and the sons of aliens held the citadel; it was a lodging place for the Gentiles. Joy was taken from Jacob; the flute and the harp ceased to play

1 Mac.3 56 - 57

And he said to those who were building houses, or were betrothed, or were planting vineyards, or were fainthearted, that each should return to his home, according to the law.* Then the army marched out and encamped to the south of Emmaus.

***Deuteronomy 20; 5 - 8**

The Miracles Begin

1 Mac. 4; 8 - 11

Judas said to the men who were with him, "Do not fear their numbers or be afraid when they charge. Remember how our fathers were saved at the Red Sea, when Pharaoh with his forces pursued them. And now let us cry to Heaven, to see whether he will favor us and remember his covenant with our fathers and crush this army before us today. Then all the Gentiles will know that there is one who redeems and saves Israel."

1 Mac.4; 12 - 15

When the foreigners looked up and saw them coming against them, they went forth from their camp to battle. Then the men with Judas blew their trumpets and engaged in battle. The Gentiles were crushed and fled into the plain, and all those in the rear fell by the sword. They pursued them to Gazara, and to the plains of Idumea, and to Azotus and Jamnia; and three thousand of them fell.

1 Mac. 4; 23 - 25

Then Judas returned to plunder the camp, and they seized much gold and silver, and cloth dyed blue and sea purple, and great riches. On their return they sang hymns and praises to Heaven, for he is good, for his mercy endures for ever. Thus Israel had a great deliverance that day.

Battle after battle, the small army of Israel led by the Maccabees defeated the Greek army - and every time they offered thanks and praise to יהוה for His mercy and His protection.

2 Mac. 2; 1 - 3

Now Maccabeus and his followers, the Lord leading them on, recovered the temple and the city; and they tore down the altars which had been built in the public square by the foreigners, and also destroyed the sacred precincts. They purified the sanctuary, and made another altar of sacrifice; then, striking fire out of flint, they offered sacrifices, after a lapse of two years, and they burned incense and lighted lamps and set out the bread of the Presence.

2 Mac. 10; 4 - 5

And when they had done this, they fell prostrate and besought the Lord that they might never again fall into such misfortunes, but that, if they should ever sin, they might be disciplined by him with forbearance and not be handed over to blasphemous and barbarous nations. It happened that on the same day on which the sanctuary had been profaned by the foreigners, the purification of the sanctuary took place, that is, on the twenty-fifth day of the same month, which was Chislev.

2 Mac. 10; 6 - 7

And they celebrated it for eight days with rejoicing, in the manner of the feast of booths, remembering how not long before, during the Feast Of Booths, they had been wandering in the mountains and caves like wild animals. Therefore bearing ivy-wreathed wands and beautiful branches and also fronds of palm, they offered hymns of thanksgiving to him who had given success to the purifying of his own holy place.

2 Mac. 10; 8 - 9

They decreed by public ordinance and vote that the whole nation of the Jews should observe these days every year. Such then was the end of Antiochus, who was called Epiphanes.

John 9; 5 - 7

As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

John 10; 22 - 23

**And it was at Jerusalem the
Feast Of The Dedication, and it
was winter. And Jesus walked in
the temple in Solomon's porch.**

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