

HANUKKAH

Feast of Dedication

Kislev 25 thru Tevet 2 - beginning at sundown on Tuesday December 7, 2004

Yeshua used Hanukkah, the winter Feast of Dedication of the Holy Temple (see John 10:22-36), as an occasion to explain how He was sanctified and sent into the world. This feast fits the time of His conception, being nine months before the Feast of Tabernacles when He was born. Through an angel's proclamation, He was dedicated from conception in the womb to be the Temple of God.

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted - Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

Hanukkah (Hebrew for Dedication / Rededication) is related to the Feast of Tabernacles. It occurs nine months prior, and celebrates several dedications / rededications of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, the Holy Temple at Jerusalem, and ultimately, the antitype Yeshua. Its celebration is recorded in various places in Scripture:

Psalm 30 is Biblically titled: *A Psalm for Hanukkah / Dedication of the Temple.*

Ezra 6:16-17 - And the children of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, celebrated Hanukkah at this house of God with joy, and offered at the dedication of this house of God an hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve he goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.

The apocryphal Book of Macabees contains the best known account of this Festival, showing that it is patterned after the eight day Feast of Tabernacles.

John 10:22-24 -And it was at Jerusalem at (Hanukkah) the Feast of the Dedication, and it was winter. And Yeshua walked in the temple in Solomon's porch. Then the Jews came round about him, and said to him, 'How long will you make us to doubt? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.'

The Tabernacle and Temple were to be built exactly according to the pattern from heaven, because they were temporal pictures of Messiah.

"And see that you make them according to their pattern, which was shown you in the mount." - Exodus 25:4

Since the Feast of Tabernacles is the season of Yeshua's birth in a *Sukkah* (see article on Sukkot / Feast of Tabernacles), it figures that Hanukkah, nine months earlier, would be the season of His conception.

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came to her, and said, 'Hail, you that are highly favored, the Lord is with you: blessed are you among women.' And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said to her, 'Fear not, Mary: for you have found favor with God. And, behold, you shall conceive in your womb, and bring forth a son, and shall call his name Yeshua (Jesus). He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give to him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.' Then Mary said to the angel, 'How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?' And the angel answered and said to her, 'The Spirit of God shall come upon you, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow you: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of you shall be called the Son of God.' - Luke 1:26-35

And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.- Revelation 21:22

Yeshua was dedicated at conception, by God through the angel Gabriel, to be the ultimate Temple of God.

Hanukkah, then, was from creation the time for the Temple of God to be dedicated: the Tabernacle in the wilderness, the Temple at Jerusalem, and the heavenly living Temple of God after which the former were patterned. The oil used in the Temple menorahs (candleabra, a major symbol in the celebration of Hanukkah) is symbolic of the Spirit of God, by which Yeshua was conceived to be the Light of the World. The Hanukkah dreidel, which proclaims "A great miracle happened there," refers to the lasting menorah oil -- and the miracle of the virgin's conception of the eternal Messiah by the Spirit of God.

After the major Festivals of the Biblical Festival Year comes Hanukkah; following the listing of the Festivals in Leviticus 23, Leviticus 24:1-9 is an apparent allusion to Hanukkah: "*Command the sons of Israel that they bring to you clear oil from beaten olives for the light, to make a lamp burn continually.*"



LIGHTING the HANUKKIAH

The hanukkiah (eight-branch Hanukkah menorah) is lighted each of the eight nights and placed where outsiders may see it through a window.

One candle (in the center or on one side) is taller; it is called the shamus (meaning servant) and is renewed each night and used to light the branches. It represents Messiah.

The eight branches represent the eight days, from right to left. On the first night, one candle is placed on the right branch and lighted. On the second night, a new candle is placed on the right branch and another on the second from right branch, but they are lighted from left to right, the current day's first. On the third night, new candles are placed on the right and second from right branches and another on the third from right branch, and they are lighted left to right, the current day's first. This order is followed through the eighth night. They are lighted after sunset except on Erev Shabbat (Friday night) when they are lighted before sunset -- before the Sabbath candles.

The following blessings are recited: (After the first night, omit the third blessing.)

Blessed are You, Yahweh our God, King of the universe, Who sanctified us by Your Word, and taught us to kindle Hanukkah lights.

Blessed are You, Yahweh our God, King of the universe, Who performed miracles for our ancestors long ago at this season.

Blessed are you, Yahweh our God, king of the universe, Who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season



DREIDEL GAME

Do you know what a dreidel is? Well, it's a four-sided dancing dandy top. Give it a twist and it will dance and spin and prance and when out of energy, the dancer will bow and then ever so gently fall – plo – on its Nun, Gimmel, Hay or Shin.

This dancing dancer has a magnificent story to tell. Each of its four sides has one Hebrew letter - Nun, Gimmel, Hay or Shin. These letters stand for the Hebrew words, Nes Gadol Haya Sham: in English this means, "A great miracle happened there."

Firstly, in Israel over 2,100 years ago, the Syrians conquered the tiny land of Israel and enslaved the Jews. Under the leadership of Judah Maccabee, the Jews fought back and defeated the Syrians. On this date, they recaptured and cleansed the Holy Temple. They wanted to relight the golden Temple Menorah, but, alas, there was just one tiny jar of Holy Oil, enough for only several hours. But, "A great miracle happened there," and the oil burned for all eight days and nights of the Feast of Dedication (according to the Talmudic story).

Secondly, about this date over 1900 years ago, a Jewish girl named Miryam (Mary in English) was visited by an angel. She was told that, while still a virgin, she would conceive a child by the Holy Spirit – a child dedicated to be the Holy Temple of God. "A great miracle happened there!"

"You shall call His name Yeshua (Jesus), for He shall save His people from their sins."

The four Hebrew letters make up a sprightly Hanukkah game. Each player places some candies, nuts, or if you're rich, some money into a kitty. Now, spin the dreidel and follow the instructions. May the player with the best and longest spin win!

נ ג ה ש

Nun means "nisht" or nothing. You win nothing, lose nothing.

Gimmel means "gantz" or all of the pot – you take all.

Hay means "half" or take half of the pot.

Shin means "shel Tzu" or put one item or coin in the pot.

The word "hanukkah" in the Bible:

Numbers 7:1 Now it came about on the day that Moses had finished setting up the tabernacle, he anointed it and consecrated it with all its furnishings and the altar and all its utensils; he anointed them and consecrated them also. 2 Then the leaders of Israel, the heads of their fathers' households, made an offering (they were the leaders of the tribes; they were the ones who were over the numbered men). 3 When they brought their offering before Yahweh, six covered carts and twelve oxen, a cart for every two of the leaders and an ox for each one, then they presented them before the tabernacle. 4 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying, 5 "Accept these things from them, that they may be used in the service of the tent of meeting, and you shall give them to the Levites, to each man according to his service." 6 So Moses took the carts and the oxen, and gave them to the Levites. 7 Two carts and four oxen he gave to the sons of Gershon, according to their service, 8 and four carts and eight oxen he gave to the sons of Merari, according to their service, under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest. 9 But he did not give any to the sons of Kohath because theirs was the service of the holy objects, which they carried on the shoulder. 10 And the leaders offered the **dedication** offering for the altar when it was anointed, so the leaders offered their offering before the altar. 11 Then Yahweh said to Moses, "Let them present their offering, one leader each day, for the **dedication** of the altar."

84 This was the **dedication** offering for the altar from the leaders of Israel when it was anointed: twelve silver dishes, twelve silver bowls, twelve gold pans, 85 each silver dish weighing one hundred and thirty shekels and each bowl seventy; all the silver of the utensils was 2,400 shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary; 86 the twelve gold pans, full of incense, weighing ten shekels apiece, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, all the gold of the pans 120 shekels; 87 all the oxen for the burnt offering twelve bulls, all the rams twelve, the male lambs one year old with their grain offering twelve, and the male goats for a sin offering twelve; 88 and all the oxen for the sacrifice of peace offerings 24 bulls, all the rams 60, the male goats 60, the male lambs one year old 60. This was the **dedication** offering for the altar after it was anointed. 89 Now when Moses went into

the tent of meeting to speak with Him, he heard the voice speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the testimony, from between the two cherubim, so He spoke to him.

2 Chronicles 7:1 Now when Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of Yahweh filled the house. 2 And the priests could not enter into the house of Yahweh, because the glory of Yahweh filled Yahweh's house. 3 And all the sons of Israel, seeing the fire come down and the glory of Yahweh upon the house, bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave praise to Yahweh, saying, "Truly He is good, truly His lovingkindness is everlasting." 4 Then the king and all the people offered sacrifice before Yahweh. 5 And King Solomon offered a sacrifice of 22,000 oxen, and 120,000 sheep. Thus the king and all the people dedicated the house of God. 6 And the priests stood at their posts and the Levites, with the instruments of music to Yahweh, which King David had made for giving praise to Yahweh-- "for His lovingkindness is everlasting"-- whenever he gave praise by their means, while the priests on the other side blew trumpets; and all Israel was standing. 7 Then Solomon consecrated the middle of the court that was before the house of Yahweh, for there he offered the burnt offerings and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar which Solomon had made was not able to contain the burnt offering, the grain offering, and the fat. 8 So Solomon observed the feast at that time for seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly, who came from the entrance of Hamath to the brook of Egypt. 9 And on the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, for the **dedication** of the altar they observed seven days, and the feast seven days. 10 Then on the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people to their tents, rejoicing and happy of heart because of the goodness that Yahweh had shown to David and to Solomon and to His people Israel. 11 Thus Solomon finished the house of Yahweh and the king's palace, and successfully completed all that he had planned on doing in the house of Yahweh and in his palace. 12 Then Yahweh appeared to Solomon at night and said to him, "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice.

Ezra 6:14 And the elders of the Jews were successful in building through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they finished building according to the command of the God of Israel and the decree of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. 15 And this temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar; it was the sixth year of the reign of King Darius. 16 And the sons of Israel, the priests, the Levites, and the rest of the exiles, celebrated the **dedication** of this house of God with joy. 17 And they offered for the **dedication** of this temple of God 100 bulls, 200 rams, 400 lambs, and as a sin offering for all Israel 12 male goats, corresponding to the number of the tribes of Israel. 18 Then they appointed the priests to their divisions and the Levites in their orders for the service of God in Jerusalem, as it is written in the book of Moses. 19 And the exiles observed the Passover on the fourteenth of the first month. 20 For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves together; all of them were pure. Then they slaughtered the Passover lamb for all the exiles, both for their brothers the priests and for themselves. 21 And the sons of Israel who returned from exile and all those who had separated themselves from the impurity of the nations of the land to join them, to seek Yahweh God of Israel, ate the Passover. 22 And they observed the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, for Yahweh had caused them to rejoice, and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria toward them to encourage them in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

Neh 12:26 These served in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor and of Ezra the priest and scribe. 27 Now at the **dedication** of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites from all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem so that they might celebrate the **dedication** with gladness, with hymns of thanksgiving and with songs to the accompaniment of cymbals, harps, and lyres. 28 So the sons of the singers were assembled from the district around Jerusalem, and from the villages of the Netophathites, 29 from Beth-gilgal, and from their fields in Geba and Azmaveth, for the singers had built themselves villages around Jerusalem. 30 And the priests and the Levites purified themselves; they also purified the people, the gates, and the wall.

Psalms 30:1 A Psalm; a Song at the **Dedication** of the Temple. A Psalm of David.

Daniel 3:1 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, the height of which was sixty cubits and its width six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. 2 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent word to assemble the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces to come to the **dedication** of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the

king had set up. 3 Then the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces were assembled for the **dedication** of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 4 Then the herald loudly proclaimed: "To you the command is given, O peoples, nations and men of every language, 5 that at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe, and all kinds of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up. 6 "But whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire."

John 10:22 At that time the Feast of the **Dedication** took place at Jerusalem; 23 it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon.