

# *What is on Your Altar This Hanukkah?*

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This year, Hanukkah, the Jewish Feast of Lights and Dedication starts at evening on December 25th, 2024 which means that this year, Hanukkah and Christmas are on the same Day. There are many years where both Feasts overlap and therefore some people believe that **IT IS** the **OLD** and the **NEW** becoming one. This of course **IS NOT THE CASE NOR IS IT EVEN AN ACCEPTABLE COMPARISON, BECAUSE IT HINTS THAT CHRISTMAS AND HANUKKAH** are somehow connected, and I can assure you that they are **NOT** in any way connected. Hanukkah is directly from the teaching and instructions of Yahweh and Christmas is from man's tradition, which according to Scripture **IS UNACCEPTABLE TO ELOHIM.**

As we celebrate this festival of dedication we will be part of millions of households all across the globe that will also be lighting the **TRADITIONAL** candles as they too celebrate the eight day commemoration of Elohim's deliverance of His Covenant people from Antiochus Epiphanies. The story started and ended with the altar of Yahweh, and the question for each and every one of us, as this year is coming to its close, is – **What Is On Your Altar?**

## **THE FEAST OF DEDICATION**

Hanukkah (which means **DEDICATION** in Hebrew), **IS NOT ONE** of the Biblical Feasts of Yahweh, **IT IS** a Jewish national celebration commemorating the Purification, Sanctification and Rededication of the altar and Temple in Jerusalem after it had fallen in the hands of Antiochus Epiphanies. Antiochus Epiphanies desecrated the altar by sacrificing swine flesh on Elohim's altar and erecting an idol of their own man made god in the Temple. After many hardships and battles the Maccabees eventually recaptured the temple and then, in an eight day celebration rededicated the temple to Elohim in the same manner that the first tabernacle was dedicated in the wilderness. (more on this later)

The Tabernacle in the wilderness and the Temple erected by Solomon were dedicated to Yahweh and the Hebrew word used for that **dedication** in the wilderness and at the **dedication** of Solomon's Temple **IS HANUKKAH**. Yeshua Himself observed this feast and used it as a platform to offer another **prophetic hint** as to His Messianic identity.

*At that time the **Feast of the Dedication** took place at Jerusalem; **IT WAS WINTER**, and Yeshua was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon. The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Yeshua answered them, I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. John 10:22-25.*

**IT IS** significant to note that the word Hanukkah is mentioned many times in the Bible. It is the Strong's number H2598 חֲנֻכָּה chānûkkâh, *khan-ook-kaw'* From H2596; *initiation*, that is, *consecration*: - dedicating or dedication. Some of the *verses* where this Hebrew word appears, are, *Numbers 7:84, 88; 2Chronicles 7:9; Ezra 6:16-17* to name but a few.

Hanukkah is also found in the Apostolic Scriptures, and in the context of Yeshua's own life and teaching. In other words, since we know that Yeshua celebrated Hanukkah, don't you think it is appropriate, even needful, that we, His brethren and followers understand its message?

### ***A PLAN FROM HELL***

The epic events that Hanukkah commemorates, started at 165 BC. Over 100 years earlier, Alexander the Great had conquered the entire Eastern Mediterranean area up to Persia. Upon his death, his vast empire disintegrated into four feuding regions, with Judea coming under the control of Antiochus IV Epiphanies who was the first ***Abomination of desolation*** prophesied of by *Daniel 11:31-32*.

Antiochus, a Syrian/Greek king, was driven to impose the Hellenistic/humanistic ideals of Greece upon the conservative Jewish population of Israel. Needless to say, he faced fierce resistance. Capturing Jerusalem, therefore when he did capture Jerusalem, Antiochus executed 80,000 of her residents, sold a like number into slavery, removed the sacred vessels from the Temple, ***and decided to slaughter a pig on the altar of burnt offering, and sprinkled pig blood all over the entire Temple complex, and sprinkling swine broth all over the grounds, thereby defiling the Temple of YHVH.*** Furthermore Antiochus commanded that the daily sacrifices and worship services ***cease altogether*** and therefore ***the nation's spiritual heart was defiled and dishonoured.***

Seeking to expunge all traces of Jewish existence, Antiochus ***banned,***

The worship of Elohim

Circumcision

The keeping of the Sabbath

The keeping observance of Yahweh's biblical Feasts

They were banned from doing those things, under the threat of torture or death.

The Torah Scrolls (the books of the Law) and the books of the prophets ***were burned,***

The Temple was converted to host ***pagan ceremonies and feasts***

A statue of Jupiter was erected upon the altar.

In other words, ***Hell's agenda*** was calculated and straightforward, in trying to wipe out the nation of Yisrael as a distinct people group, defined by their ***BELIEF*** in the One True Elohim; the only nation who embodied the lineage of the Messiah, the promised Saviour of the world.

I am very sorry to say that other than the death penalty, not much has changed today for ***the main stream religion*** in the countries of Canada, where I live, the Us, South America and most of Europe; for they teach that:

***The worship*** of Elohim as prescribed in the Torah, and the Torah itself, have, in their estimation, somehow been abolished in whole or in part by the church fathers, even though there ***IS NO SUCH COMMAND IN SCRIPTURE.***

***The writing*** of the prophets is said to be archaic and ***NOT*** applicable to today's complex society ***Circumcision*** is said to be barbaric, and a mutilation of the body and therefore should ***NOT*** be done ***Sabbath*** is for the Jews and the Christian worship Day has been changed to Sunday by ***our church father's decree,*** even though they cannot support the changing of the worship day to Sunday anywhere in Scripture.

***Swine's flesh*** & unclean things are eaten by believers even though it is an abomination to Elohim

*Elohim's Feasts* as delineated in *Leviticus 23* *These are the feasts of Yahweh, even holy convocations, which you shall proclaim in their seasons* have been **banned and ridiculed and replaced** with man made feasts such as Christmas and Easter; something that our heavenly Father told us **NOT** to do, and we know that statues are prevalent in many churches in direct contradiction with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment found in *Exodus 20:4*.

Scripture tells us what Yahweh thinks of this kind of behaviour in *Jeremiah 3:8-9* *And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also. 9 And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks.*

In *Deuteronomy 12:28* Mosheh Commands us to *Observe and hear* (shemah, which means hear. Listen, pay very close attention to, understand, believe, follow, obey and **DO**) *all these words which I command you, THAT IT MAY GO WELL WITH YOU, AND WITH YOUR CHILDREN AFTER YOU, FOR EVER, when you do that which IS GOOD and RIGHT in the sight of Yahweh your Elohim. 29 When Yahweh your Elohim shall CUT OFF the nations from before you, where you go to possess them, and you succeed them, and dwell in their land; 30 TAKE HEED to yourself that you ARE NOT snared by following them, after that they are destroyed from before you; and that you inquire NOT after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? Even so, will I do likewise. 31 You shall NOT DO SO unto Yahweh your Elohim: for every abomination to Yahweh, which He hates, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. 32 Whatsoever thing I Command you, OBSERVE TO DO IT: you shall NOT add thereto, nor diminish from it.*

Yisrael had turned their backs on Yahweh and His Ways, and this is what happened to them. **NOW, I ASK YOU TO PUT ON YOUR THINKING CAP AND PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION, IS** there any difference with what the church fathers have done and **CONTINUE TO DO TODAY** in comparison to what Antiochus Epiphanies did 2,200 years ago?

Submitting to Antiochus' policies then, or man's ways today, only means one thing; **THE ANNIHILATION OF THE COVENANT PEOPLE AND THE TERMINATION OF ELOHIM'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION ONTO SALVATION**. Satan **KNEW**, that without the nation of Yisrael, the twelve tribes, there would be **NO** Messianic lineage; **NO** Saviour/King born to the house of David; and **NO** hope of redeeming Elohim's fallen creation. Therefore let us not continue to be deceived by satan, **BUT RATHER LET US LEARN** to get back on track by returning to the inerrant and everlasting Ways of our heavenly Father, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life, our Messiah, the Living Word of Elohim made flesh. Besides, the fact that there is still a Jewish/Yisrael nation after 3,500 years of persecution **IS AMPLE EVIDENCE THAT ELOHIM HAS NOT FORSAKEN HIS FIRST BORN**.

### **THE FIGHT FOR LIFE**

In the face of certain death, the priestly family of Mattathias led a fierce uprising. By 166 BC they launched a guerrilla campaign in the hill country of Judea which eventually overwhelmed the world's greatest military power (at the time) and overthrew the Greek pagan rule. Early in the war, Judah assumed leadership following his father's death. Judah was called the Maccabee (Sledge Hammer in Hebrew), Judah was the one accredited with the famous guerrilla tactics and the ensuing legendary victories.

Judah's battle cry was *Mi Camokha Ba'elim Adonai -Who is like You, O YHVH, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? Exodus 15:11.* As was their biblical banner, so to, were their victories, awesome and decisive. Although Judah fell in battle, before the war ended, his brothers and followers liberated the Temple in 164 BC. The land and the people were now safe, ready to receive the seed (Word) of Elohim who was promised to be born to the house of David in the Judean village of Bethlehem.

### ***LIGHT OF THE WORLD***

Once the Syrian/Greek forces were driven out, the Maccabees tore down the pagan idols, cleansed the altar, purified the instruments of worship and prepared to offer acceptable sacrifices to Elohim. However, ***legend has it*** that they found enough consecrated oil to light the Eternal Light in the Holy Place for only one day.

Immediately, messengers were sent out throughout the countryside to collect and press a fresh supply of olive oil. ***Legend*** has it however, that miraculously, the lamp (Menorah) in the Holy Place remained burning for eight full days, illuminating the inner sanctuary until the messengers returned with fresh oil. Hanukkah tells us that through ***belief, sacrifice and warfare*** the nation was preserved, the Temple cleansed and true worship restored.

Without Hanukkah there would have been ***NO*** Mary to conceive Elohim's only begotten Son; ***NO*** Yoseph to provide for her; ***NO*** Bethlehem for the Saviour to be born in; ***NO*** shepherds to hear the angelic proclamation; ***NO*** Simeon or Anna to prophesy at His dedication; ***NO*** Nazareth to be His childhood home; ***NO*** John to prepare His way; ***NO*** Temple courts to teach in; ***NO*** disciples to follow Him; ***NO*** Golgotha to be crucified at; and ***NO*** tomb to rise from. ***WITHOUT HANUKKAH THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO YESHUA AND NO REASON FOR OUR CHRISTIAN BROTHERS TO CELEBRATE THEIR OWN MAN MADE FEAST OF CHRISTMAS!***

### ***DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH OIL?***

The true issue ***OF THE LEGEND*** of Hanukkah's miracle of oil was ***NOT*** that the priesthood needed ***FRESH OIL, BUT RATHER, IT IS ABOUT THE FACT THAT THEY DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH OIL*** to sustain an ongoing life of service, worship and warfare. ***THE ISSUE IS STILL THE SAME TODAY.*** Many of the people that profess to be following and obeying the Elohim of Abraham, Yitzchaq and Ya'aqov, run to and fro, all over the earth, in search of ***NEW OIL OR FRESH ANOINTING***, only to discover time and time again that there ***IS NO MAGIC FORMULA OR SOME NEW-FOUND GRACE FROM HEAVEN*** that could carry them forward effortlessly or offer them a ***SHORT CUT*** to spiritual maturity, bypassing the essentials of ***a totally surrendered Torah obedient life, filled with love, faithfulness, humility, patience, repentance, endurance, surrendered obedience and forgiveness.***

Rather, in searching for the illusive ***FRESH OIL***, as soon as the excitement ***is over and the emotions calm down, they find themselves just as needy, dry and frustrated as they were before the visitation.*** And so they set out to chase yet another ***FIX***, and another, thereby becoming ***spiritual junkies*** who embody the sorry fate of those who are ***ALWAYS LEARNING AND NEVER ABLE TO COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH.*** 2 Timothy 3:7; Psalm 119:142.

What then ***IS THAT OIL WITHOUT WHICH TRUE WORSHIP AND SERVICE ARE IMPOSSIBLE?*** What is this ***HOLY FIRE*** that alone can ***BRIGHTEN*** our human spirit, ***ILLUMINATE*** the inner sanctuary of our temple, and ***CONFIRM WITH CONFIDENCE*** and a

clear conscience ***THAT ELOHIM INDEED IS WITH US? IT IS FAITHFULNESS TO BELIEVE, FOLLOW, and OBEY the WORDS of the FATHER'S TORAH, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions.***

***A BELIEF THAT IS BORN IN ONE'S HEART OF TRUSTING THE ELOHIM WHO PROMISES ALL WHO WILLINGLY AND LOVINGLY OBEY HIM, SALVATION;***

***IT IS FAITHFULNESS TO HIS WORD THAT PRODUCES A LIFE OF OBEDIENCE AND WORSHIP;***

***IT IS BELIEF AND FAITHFULNESS TO HIS WORD THAT PRODUCES ACTION,***

***IT IS BELIEF AND FAITHFULNESS TO YHVH's INERRANT AND EVERLASTING TEACHING AND INSTRUCTIONS THAT OVERCOMES THE WORLD*** (external distractions and temptations), ***THE FLESH*** (our own carnal nature), ***AND THE DEVIL*** (the adversary). ***TRUE BELIEF (FAITH)*** comes from being ***FAITHFUL*** to His Written Word, His Torah of Life on a daily basis.

***IT IS BY SURRENDERING MORE OF OUR WILL, OUR, SELF, TO ELOHIM IN LOVING SURRENDERED OBEDIENCE,*** to His Words of Life, that we truly stretch and expand our ***BELIEF*** muscles and thereby, expanding our ***BELIEFS*** on a daily basis, simply by being ***FAITHFUL TO OBEY*** and then witnessing Elohim's promises at work in our daily lives.

#### ***TIME IS UP!***

Remember Yahweh's teaching about the ***TEN*** virgins? *Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!*

*Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.*

The facts were as follows:

- 1- All ten virgins had oil, but five of them did ***NOT*** have enough oil to sustain them.
- 2- All ten virgins were asleep at the coming of the Bridegroom and all had to be awakened.
- 3- The lethargic scenario came to a sudden and abrupt conclusion that surprised everyone.
- 4- For those whose lamps did ***NOT*** have oil, there was no time left to go shopping for more oil, run to another event, or order one more set of teachings to reignite their darkened spirits. Time was up, and the lesson of the hour ***IS*** that we are to live in a state of total surrendered obedience to our heavenly Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life, which is the Righteous Path that He has set for our lives, the Righteous path that is demonstrated every year through His weekly Sabbaths and His Feasts, His Mo'eds. The word oil, in Hebrew, ***IS SHEMEN***, שֶׁמֶן, and contained in this Hebrew word Shemen, is the word, Shem, שֵׁם,

and this word, Shem, שמ, means **Name**, and in Hebrew it also means *the character of, the essence of*, therefore it can and should be said that the Feasts of Yahweh represent the essence of who He **IS**, and what He represents, and when we willingly choose to celebrate Yahweh's Feasts, we are actually tapping into the character and essence of who He really **IS**.

Therefore, the only logical conclusion that we can arrive at, **IS, the oil that the five virgins had and the oil that the other five virgins were lacking IS THE DESIRE TO SUBMIT TO YAHWEH AND WILLINGLY AND LOVINGLY KEEP AND DO HIS FEASTS, COPY and MIMIC YAHWEH'S HEART, THE ESSENCE OF WHO HE REALLY IS, and that can only be done by willingly and lovingly keeping, and obeying all the Words of His Torah of Life.**

The Torah **IS** the first five books of the bible and **IT IS** described everywhere in Scripture as **WISDOM**, therefore, the five **WISE** virgins refers to those who willingly and lovingly chose to **KEEP AND OBEY, (on a daily Basis) THE TORAH OF MOSHEH which contains** the wisdom of Elohim, which means that these five **WISE** virgins lived in a state of preparedness, whereas the five **UNWISE** virgins did **NOT KEEP** the Torah of Elohim and thereby were **NOT** prepared for the coming of the bridegroom. We are here on this earth **ONLY** in order to prepare for eternity!

How can **WE**, gather the oil we need for the long run? Yeshua said to the Laodicean Church:  
*I advise you to **buy from Me gold REFINED BY FIRE**  
That you may become rich  
And white garments (purity)  
That you may clothe yourself (be covered and protected)  
That the shame of your nakedness (your Torahlessness) may not be revealed  
And eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see (comprehend, be enlightened)  
Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline;  
Be zealous therefore (for the Torah, My Words of Life), and repent.  
Behold, I, the Living Torah, stand at the door and knock  
If any man hears My voice, and opens the door  
I, the Living Torah, will come in to him, and I will sup with him, and he with Me.  
To him that **overcomes** will I grant to sit with Me, the Living Torah, in My throne  
Even as I the Living Torah also **overcame**  
And I am set down with My Father in His Throne....Rev 3:18-21.*

The gold that is refined by fire **IS** the character and essence of Yahweh, they are the virtues that we actually forge, by our daily faithful obedience to the Words of our heavenly Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life. The zealousness that is spoken of in this *verse*, **IS** the type of zealousness with which **WE SHOULD HAVE, AND OR, MUST LEARN TO HAVE, in order to KEEP** the inerrant and everlasting Pure Torah of our heavenly Father, in the manner that He wants us to keep it. This daily zealousness in keeping the Words of the Torah of our heavenly Father, **WILL SET US APART** from the peoples of the world, and yes, it may cause some hardships, **BUT** Scripture emphatically states that we are to turn those over to Yahweh. Let us therefore **NOT** despise these hardships, for they are our opportunities to receive from Yahweh, **precious gold; which is a character and a legacy that will endure before Him forever.**

### **TODAY'S HANUKKAH**

As it was in the days of the Maccabees, so it shall be again at the end of the age. Just as Antiochus, a type of antichrist appeared before the first coming of Yahweh to oppose and thwart

Elohim's purpose, so will a ***DARKER FIGURE OVERSHADOW THE EARTH TO HUNT YISRAEL***, to persecute Elohim's children, and oppose YHVH's second coming. The stage is being set at this very hour.

As Canada, the Americas and most of Europe, are declining under the ***SIN***, the Torahlessness of ***their*** people, the apathy of ***their*** saints, and the judgments of ***their*** Elohim, ***THE STRATEGIC END-TIME TRENDS, ARE BUILDING UP ACROSS THE EARTH***. China, Russia, the Islamic world, the emerging European Super Power, social and economic global turmoil, and the inevitable international monetary system are coming into view according to the prophetic Word of Yahweh. ***YISRAEL, AS IT IS WRITTEN, IS IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM; INCREASINGLY ISOLATED, SINGLED OUT AND MARKED FOR THE NEXT BLOW***.

Sometime in the future, all the evil forces of the earth will rise with vengeance trying to eradicate Yisrael's presence from the face of the earth, once again. A Palestinian announcement has put words to evil's fury, declaring that while they may negotiate with Yisrael as a secular state, they will ***NEVER*** recognize Yisrael as a Jewish Nation. That, as you may or may not know, ***IS*** in direct defiance of nearly 30 references to the phrase *Jewish* in the original U.N. resolution #181 of 1947 which constitutes the international endorsement for the sovereignty of the state of Yisrael. Evil, however, ***IS NOT BOUND TO*** *politically correct* policies. The devil desperately ***WANTS YISRAEL GONE***, Yahweh's People ***SILENCED***, and the advent of Yahweh's Kingdom delayed indefinitely!

#### ***YISRAEL'S MYSTERIOUS SURVIVAL***

Why such resistance to the Jewish phenomenon? Why such hatred towards this small nation located in the heart of the Middle East with barely 6 million Jewish people living there? What are the reasons that these dark forces fight so frantically against the Word of Elohim? What do they know that most Religious leaders of Christianity and Judaisms miss?

The answer is profoundly simple: Just as the nation of Yisrael was the context and framework for YHVH's first advent 2,000 years ago, ***so the Word of Elohim dictates that THE SAME NATIONAL YISRAEL PRESENCE, resisted and hated as ever, WILL be present in their own Land to usher in YHVH's Second ADVENT AS KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS!*** The enemy recognizes that Yisrael ***IS*** Yahweh's ***LANDING STRIP***, and he knows very well the consequences that await him at Yahweh's return.

While most Yisraelites (and many Christians) today, are still blind to this remarkable national calling, even as they were during Yahweh's first advent, the enemy ***IS INTENSELY AWARE*** of the significance and eternal implications of the ancient prophecies, and he is doing his worst to oppose their fulfillment. Satan, however, is walking into a trap, since our Elohim will ***NOT*** be mocked!

#### ***THE POWER OF THE WORD***

Neither nuclear Iran, godless Russia, imperial Europe, Red China, nor blood thirsty Islam will be able to undo the Word of Elohim. As it is written, *The grass withers, the flower fades, BUT THE WORD OF OUR ELOHIM STANDS FOREVER. Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales... All the nations are as nothing before Him, they are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless...*

Do you **NOT** know?

Have you **NOT** heard?

Has it **NOT** been declared to you from the beginning?

Have you **NOT** understood from the foundations of the earth?

**IT IS HE WHO SITS ABOVE THE VAULT OF THE EARTH**, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. **HE IT IS WHO REDUCES RULERS TO NOTHING, WHO MAKES THE JUDGES OF THE EARTH MEANINGLESS...**

Lift up your eyes on high and **SEE** who has Created these stars, the One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; because of the greatness of His might and **THE STRENGTH OF HIS POWER NOT** one of them is missing. Why do you say, O Ya'aqov, and assert, O Yisrael, 'My way is hidden from Yahweh, and the justice due Me escapes the notice of my Elohim? ...

Do you **NOT** know? Have you **NOT** heard? **THE EVERLASTING ELOHIM, YAHWEH, THE CREATOR OF THE ENDS OF THE EARTH DOES NOT BECOME WEARY OR TIRED.** His understanding is inscrutable. He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, **YET THOSE WHO WAIT FOR YAHWEH WILL GAIN NEW STRENGTH**; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary. Isaiah 40.

### **SO, WHAT'S ON YOUR ALTAR?**

The story of Hanukkah **IS** the testimony of **BELIEF** and faithfulness to Yahweh and **HIS WAYS**, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, and **IT IS** a story of courage and sacrifice that liberated, cleansed, sanctified and rededicated the defiled Temple of Elohim. The Maccabees were **ZEALOUS** for the Word of Elohim, **ZEALOUS** for His Torah. We have to understand, that **THEN, AS WELL AS NOW, THERE CAN BE NO TRUE WORSHIP IN THE COURTS OF YHVH WITHOUT FIRST DRIVING OUT THE ENEMY, CASTING DOWN THE IDOLS, PURIFYING AND SANCTIFYING THE ALTAR, IN HIS PRESCRIBED MANNER, FROM POLLUTED SACRIFICES, AND REDEDICATING OURSELVES AS INSTRUMENTS OF WORSHIP, and the only way TO DO THAT IS BY SUBMITTING OUR WILLS to the One and only True Elohim and His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life made flesh, our Messiah.**

What's on your altar? Learning the lesson of the very first offerings of Genesis chapter four; the offerings that typify us all, will help. Cain offered the fruits of his own labours and was rejected, resulting in a life of regret and condemnation. Abel offered the blood of a lamb, the only acceptable offering then, and forever, and his legacy, through submitted lives to Yahweh and His Torah.

**IS YOUR HEART A READY TEMPLE FOR YAHWEH?** In your marriage and in your family; **IS THERE OBEDIENCE, PRAYER AND WORSHIP IN YOUR COURTS**, or are you still oppressed under the heavy yoke of man made gods, man made religions and doctrines, idols and business, and calamity? The good news **IS** that the Maccabees of Elohim, the *Sledge Hammer* of the Almighty, **IS** falling with crushing blows upon the enemies of our souls as we choose to willingly and lovingly surrender and offer our wills on Elohim's altar as our Messiah surrendered and offered His Will to our heavenly Father, even onto the shedding of His blood and His death for our sake.

He **IS** the perfect Lamb of Elohim, **BECAUSE** of His surrendered obedience to the Father's authority, obedience to the Father's Torah of Life, and **HE HAS TAUGHT US THAT WE CAN AND SHOULD DO THE SAME**. It is only by submitting our wills to Elohim on His altar of sacrifice that we too can become the vessels that He can use for His Kingdom. Messiah **IS** the Author and Finisher of our **BELIEFS**, because He showed us **BY EXAMPLE** how to live a Torah obedient Life. Let us therefore **NOT** diminish His sacrifice by doing our own wills, **BUT INSTEAD, LET US BE** obedient to the Father, as Messiah was totally obedient to the Father and was used as the perfect Lamb because of it.

*Yahweh said, **Behold, I am going to send My messenger.... And Yahweh, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His Temple; and the messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,**' says Yahweh of hosts. 'But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. And He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify THE SONS OF LEVI and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to YHVH offerings in righteousness. Malachi 3:1-3.*

I pray that this season of Hanukkah helps you realize **WHAT AN AWESOME PRIVILEGE IT IS TO SERVE YAHWEH AND THAT, AS YOU WILLINGLY AND LOVINGLY CHOOSE TO REDEDICATE YOUR TEMPLE TO THE ONE TRUE ELOHIM**, the Elohim of Abraham, Yitzchaq and Ya'aqov, **THAT YOU WILL BE BLESSED BEYOND YOUR DREAMS** and that Elohim will manifest Himself **IN A REAL WAY IN YOUR LIFE** by answering your prayers for you and your loved ones. Amein

Happy Chanukah!

*Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.*

*Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought, and your every deed. Until we meet again; Shalom Alechem! Amein!*