



Understanding God's Appointed Times

Hanukkah/ Purim

Oct 27, 2024

Module 5, Room 1

Class Schedule for the next few weeks

- ✓ *Sept 29, 2024 – Festival of Tabernacles (Sukkot)*
 - ✓ *Oct 1, 2024 – Manor Lake – Daniel Ch 1*
- ✓ *Oct 6, 2024 – Passover (Pesach) Part 1*
- ✓ *Oct 13, 2024 – Passover/ Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits - Part 2*
 - ✓ *Oct 15, 2024 – Manor Lake – Daniel Ch 2*
- ✓ *Oct 20, 2024 – Pentecost*
- *Oct 27, 2024 – Purim and Hannukah*

Quick Update ...ICYMI

Middle East

- *Israel attacked Iran in response to the Missile attack of earlier this month*
 - *Focused on military targets, IRGC, missile defense, and weapons manufacturing*
 - *Took out serious defense capabilities of Iran, perhaps in preparation for additional attacks later*
- *Continued attacks on Syria and Lebanon, and mop-up in Gaza, US struck Houthis*
- *Hostage talks will be renewed this coming week...little hope of success*
- *Beefed up defense for Israel with US THAAD weapons systems and more US assets.*

US/World

- *Problems still ongoing from Hurricanes*
- *Rhetoric and promises on both sides of the election*
- *Early voting started in states including GA – GA is a record-setting early vote*
- *Hopefully, the Election will occur without more violence or assassination attempts.*
- ***Depending on who wins, we may see violence break out in some cities***
- ***President Biden is AWOL on the world stage and with events in the US***

Thoughts about our current study...

- *We are finished with the main Feasts and the Appointed Times in Leviticus 23, but there are two more celebrations left to discuss*
- *These celebrations have two things in common...they are both rooted in the History of Israel and the Jewish people and Jesus celebrated them.*
- *One is written down in the Book of Esther and is the **celebration of Purim***
- *The other is in the Jewish History books of the Maccabees. These are not in the Bible as we know it, but are the accurate history of the Jews in the time between the Testaments...**That celebration is Hanukkah***
- ***With this discussion, we complete our study of God's Appointed Times***

Question: Have you ever heard about the “whole megilla” as a slang phrase, as in eating the whole megilla or reading the whole megilla

Let's Start with Hanukkah – Feast of Dedication

John 10: 22-23

²² Then came the Festival of Dedication (Hanukkah) at Jerusalem. It was winter,

²³ and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade.

Jesus celebrated this Festival

Hanukkah – Feast of Dedication

Hanukkah celebrates a season of miracles for the Jews. Two miracles need to be remembered:

- *The **Miracle of Fighting***
- *The **Miracle of Lighting***

Fighting – Israel has been in many wars in what seemed like impossible situations (today is no different)

- *Our memory - Fighting for survival since 1948*
- *In our studies of the OT, we see this also in their many wars before they were taken into captivity*
- *Our studies include the OT record and the NT record, plus what we have seen with our own eyes.*
- *This festival honors another time we don't study **but is real.***

Remember in the Book of Daniel

- In the period of the Greek World Empire, after the death of **Alexander the Great**, his Kingdom was divided into 4 smaller Kingdoms and his generals took over them.

Daniel 7:6

*⁶ “After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back, it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had **four heads**, and it was given authority to rule.*

*One of these Generals was Seleucid who ruled the Assyrian Area including the territory of Israel. He was succeeded by several generations of sons until **Antiochus IV (Epiphanes)** became King. He wanted to crush all the indigenous people and force Hellenistic Greek on the population. Part of this was to crush the Jewish people and create a Greek culture in Israel*

Antiochus Epiphanes

- *This ruler created another “impossible” situation for the Jews*
- *This was in the intertestamental period (142BC to 76BC), and although we do not see it in the Canon of Scripture, it is in the noncanonical Apocrypha as the **Books of Maccabees 1&2***
- *During the ruthless execution of this conversion to the Greek culture, the High Priest was deposed and replaced, the temple activities were halted, the Greek idols (Zeus) were placed in the Temple, the Jewish symbols were removed.*
- *Finally, Antiochus came and slaughtered and sacrificed a giant sow on the altar in the Temple areas. This incensed the Jews, but there was little they could do about it.*
- *One of the enforcers went to the city of Modin to force compliance*

The Impossible War of the Maccabees



- Antiochus erected a statue of Zeus in the Temple, took all the Jewish worship items, and killed a Sow on the Altar, defiling the Temple. A new High Priest went along with it.
- Enforcers went to the towns to enforce compliance with Antiochus' decrees
- A priest named **Mattathias** who was the leader of the town who had 5 sons, **refused the order**, and **when another Jew stepped forward to comply, Mattathias stabbed him with a knife, and they killed all the enforcers**
- **War began between the Jews led by Mattathias and his sons and the Seleucids**

One of the Sons of Mattathias, named Judah led

- Because of Judah's strong will and ability to command forces, his nickname became **Judas Maccabbeus** (**Judah the Hammer**) and the group became known as the Maccabees
- Their history and the story of the defeat of the Seleucids, plus the history of their **103-year** reign, is detailed in the two Books of the Maccabees
- This is the impossible Fighting against all odds that is part of the Festival of Hanukkah, but it is also known as the Festival of Lights. We covered the Fighting, and now the Lighting
- The Maccabees /Hasmonians lasted until the Roman Empire and the Reign of Herod the Great conquered them.

Jerusalem under the Maccabees

- Jerusalem had been defiled by the Seleucid King Antiochus, so the Temple had to be cleansed and purified for use again by the Jewish Priests
- The statues of Zeus and other pagan (Greek gods) were removed, and the articles of the Jews were replaced.
- The new High Priest called for a Festival of Dedication for the Newly Cleansed Temple, and they restored the Menorah

1 Maccabees 4:52-56

⁵² Early in the morning on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, which is the month of Chislev, in the one hundred forty-eighth year, ⁵³ they rose and offered sacrifice, as the law directs, on the new altar of burnt offering that they had built. ⁵⁴ At the very season and on the very day that the nations had profaned it, it was dedicated with songs and harps and lutes and cymbals. ⁵⁵ All the people fell on their faces and worshiped and blessed heaven, who had prospered them. ⁵⁶ So they celebrated the dedication of the altar for eight days and joyfully offered burnt offerings; they offered a sacrifice of well-being and a thanksgiving offering.

The Miracles of Light

- *The Temple was restored and the people celebrated the Dedication (Hanukkah) of the Temple*
- *They restored the Menorah and searched for oil to use to light it. The normal oil was no longer in the temple and it would be 8 days before they could get more, so they used Kosher Pure Olive Oil to light. They only had enough to burn 1 day*



- *The Menorah was to constantly remain lit to symbolize the presence and promises of God to His people. They were thinking with their heart and lit the menorah not knowing how long it would remain lit.*
- *This is why Hanukkah is called the **Feast of Dedication**. It is a celebration of fighting for the Faith and the miracle of Light through the lasting of the oil.*

Modern Hanukkah

- *The Celebration is always close to Christmas. This year it is on Dec 26th*
- *It is a joyous occasion with a Menorah with 8/9 Candles, and the center candle represents the final day of the celebration and the first lit candle lights the others each day.*
- *Fried foods...fried in Oil*
- *Gifts, playing with a dreidel, candles, and lights*
- *Miracles of Hanukkah remembered*
- ***Kristallnacht story-*** *Night of Broken Glass Nov 9, 1938, Germany*



Verse always Read on Hanukkah

Zech 4:6

‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty.



The modern Seal of Israel has 7 branches on the Menorah, which stands for the Seven Words in Hebrew in this verse

A fitting motto for Israel

Purim – What is it all about?

- *Based on the story of Esther in the OT*
- *This deserves more than I can give it today, but I know many of the ladies have studied both Esther and Ruth in the OT and seen its many meanings and teachings*
- *Pur = Lot, Purim = Lots, as in casting Lots, a gambling term used in the Bible*
- *Where Hanukkah celebrates openly the light and power of the Lord, Purim celebrates the hiddenness of God and those who trust in His unseen power*
- *High-level review of the story*
 - *Time is the Persian Captivity of the Jews*
 - *Esther is an orphan raised by her uncle Mordecai, who has a position in the Royal Courts*
 - *King Xerxes throws a 6 month party and while drunk orders his Queen Vashti to come and dance before the crowd to display her beauty. She refuses and is set aside*
 - *King auditions for a new Queen and all the eligible ladies come into his presence, kind of like the Bachelor on TV*

Esther is selected

- *Xerxes is smitten by her and chooses her as his new Queen*
- *All goes well for a while, and Mordecai hears of a plot to kill the King and tells him and is known as the “Man who saved the King”*
- *Fame is fleeting and the evil Haman, an Amalekite, is second in command and begins to plot to eliminate the Jews. Amalekites hate Jews from the time of Saul.*
- *He plots and has the King sign a proclamation to kill all the Jews as subversives, and he plots to kill Mordecai, who is a Jew, but he does not know that Queen Esther is related to Mordecai and is also a Jew. The King does not know that Mordecai is a Jew*

For A Time, Such As This...

The plot becomes known to Mordecai, and he “persuades” Esther to risk it all to go to the King, and she does. He receives her and promises to grant anything she wants, up to half the Kingdom, so she arranges 2 banquets for both the King and Haman

Esther 4:14-16

*And who knows but that **you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?**”*

¹⁵ Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai:

¹⁶ “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do.

*When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. **And if I perish, I perish.***

Esther takes the risk

- The night before Banquet 2, the King cannot sleep and has some of the history of his kingdom read to him by his servant. The story of Mordecai saving him is read, and he discovers he never did anything to honor Mordecai
- The King calls in Haman, who thinks the King is going to honor him and helps create a day of Honor for an unnamed person, but when he discovers it is Mordecai, he is forced to lead him through the city on a horse and proclaim his great honor. He keeps himself calm, thinking the next day, the “execution day” of the Jews, he will get his revenge
- Esther is committed to save her people, and at the second banquet, she appeals for her own life and that of her people. The King does not know that he has condemned his own Queen and Mordecai by the deceit of Haman and has him killed in the same way he had planned for Mordecai

The King issues another Proclamation that the Jews can defend themselves

- *Purim, the feast day was created by Mordecai and has been celebrated since then. Even though the name means Lot or Chance...do you think it was by chance that*
 - *The King chose Esther as Queen?*
 - *Mordecai heard about the plot?*
 - *The Story of Mordecai was read to the King?*
 - *The King favored Esther in her time of need?*
 - *Esther's request to the King was accepted?*
 - *Haman fell on the couch with the Queen?*
 - *The end of the Story saved and protected the Jews?*
- ...me either...*

Final thoughts on Purim

Interestingly, the Book of Esther does not mention God by name, and it was almost excluded from the Scripture.

God is hidden in both this book as a visible force and throughout it as a hidden yet controlling force. God wants us to find Him and Seek Him, and when we do...we find He is ever present and always active behind the scenes.

- *The book of Esther and the Holiday of Purim celebrates the unseen God who works by Divine “chance” to fulfill His plan.*
- ***When you cannot see the Hand of God, you must trust the Heart of God***
- *Purim is the holiday where our sorrow and fear turn to Joy and confidence in God.*
- *In 2024, Purim was celebrated Mar 24, 2024*
- *Celebrated by reading the whole Book of Esther (Megilla) joyous feasting*

Next Week, we will begin a new study

- *Pray for God to move in the US, protect Israel, and their leaders*
- *Pray for First Redeemer Pastors, staff, teachers, and all who lead*
- *Pray for your family and friends inside and outside the church.*
*Pray for healing for those in grief and recovery, **Be thankful for answered prayer...participate in the 30 days of Prayer***
- *Be thankful that God has placed you **in this day and time** and commit **your** will ...to doing **His** Will.*
- *Praise Him for the blessings He continually bestows on us.*
- *Pray for those who don't know the Lord to come to Him*
- *Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to fill the land*