
Special Feast Edition

INTRODUCTION

Chanukah/Festival of Lights/Festival of Rededication

This is a special Parsha Pearls lesson designed specifically for the feast of Chanukah. Although Chanukah is not mentioned in the Tanakh, there is a reference to it in John 10:22-23, where it says that Yeshua was in the Set-apart Place during Chanukah. Chanukah, like the festival of Purim, is not an appointed time of Yahweh. However, many observe and celebrate it to remember Yahweh's faithfulness and deliverance to His chosen people. There are many lessons to glean from the history of this national celebration, and that is why we have created this edition.

The story of Chanukah is described in the first and second books of the Maccabees, which are a part of the Apocrypha. The story tells about the recapture and rededication of the Temple from the Greek Syrian army. A story similar in character to the Chanukah story is found in 2 Maccabees 1:18, which describes Nehemiah relighting the Temple's altar fire as a result of a miracle that occurred on the 25th of Kislev. It reads: "On the twenty-fifth day of the month of Kislev we will celebrate the purification of the temple (Festival of Rededication) just as we celebrate the Festival of Booths. We thought it important to remind you of this, so that you too may celebrate this festival. In this way you will remember how fire appeared when Nehemiah offered sacrifices after he had rebuilt the Temple and the altar."

When the victorious Maccabees liberated Yerushalayim, they immediately cleansed and dedicated the Temple, then arranged for the people to observe an 8-day festival as they were not able to celebrate Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret that year. In the following year, even though Sukkot was observed at its proper time, the celebration of 'Chanukah' was repeated to remember and reflect on this time of victory over their enemies; this became the origin of the 8-day Chanukah celebration.



Chag Sameach (Happy Feast) from MTOI and YMTOT