



PRAYER FORCE

The WAR is DECIDED in the HEAVENS

Prayer Focus

December 14 – 20, 2020

Dedication

Chanukah began on the evening of December 10th and ends at sundown on December 18th.

Chanukah is the Feast of Dedication and celebrates the liberation and rededication of the Holy Temple by the Maccabees.

The First book of Maccabees in the Apocrypha describes the story of Chanukah (Hanukkah) in detail. The Syrian king, Antiochus IV, believed that Hellenizing the Jewish people was the best way to conquer them. When he appointed his own choice as the Kohen Gadol who was willing to fall in line with man rather than God, the Maccabee family stood up against the defilements and oppression.

One of the decrees was:

that Jews must abandon their faith in the Torah and...cease offering sacrifices in the Temple. The Holy Temple itself was desecrated and images of the god of Zeus (the "sky god") were placed on the altar and in the sanctuary. Pagan altars were soon erected throughout Judea and pigs were regularly sacrificed upon them. The study of Torah was outlawed (as well as the observance of Shabbat, holidays, and ritual circumcision), and the penalty for disobedience to these decrees was death. (Parsons)

In short, most everything that signified the Jewish People's covenant relationship with Yahweh was being stripped away from them--or their own lives would be instead.

But some would not stand for this. In 165 B.C.E. a High Priest by the name of Matthias, a Hasmonean, joined cohorts with his youngest son, Judah "Macabee" (the "Hammer") to "[organize] a revolt that eventually succeeded in evicting the Syrian-Greeks from Israel" (Parsons). The Temple, having been desecrated during the terrors of Antiochus, was liberated from its corrupt rule but still required rededication so that the Jews could resume their proper, Biblically-prescribed worship of Yahweh. Part of that rededication was to rekindle the Menorah lights; **Torah commands that the lights from this candlestick burn continually in the Temple.**

At the time of rededication, there was very little oil left that had not been defiled by the Syrian-Greeks...There was only enough to last for one day. Miraculously, the sanctified oil burned for eight days--the time needed to prepare a fresh supply of oil for the menorah. An eight day festival was declared to commemorate this miracle (Parsons). Excerpted from <https://galileeofthenations.com/blogs/knowledge-center/16674092-hanukkah-in-the-book-of-maccabees> (emphasis added)

The Temple was the place where people met with God. It was the place that housed the very Presence of God. It was sacred, holy - a physical manifestation of a spiritual truth.

We are the Temple

“Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” Ephesians 2:19-22

I am (and many of you are) participating in a tent revival this weekend and the first night was a Prayer Strike. There was worship, prayer, and prophecy.

<https://www.saturateoc.com/about> <https://youtu.be/gHX8B5ejD8Y>

One of the prophets said, “when you go in the ocean you don’t just get wet, you ARE wet!”

Later, another prophet highlighted those words, “when you go in the ocean you don’t just get wet, you ARE wet!” and then, she transitioned and emphasized “when the Holy Spirit fire comes, you don’t just feel the fire, **you ARE the FIRE!**”

This was said on the first night of Chanukah.

The Lord powerfully spoke to me that this is what He is calling us into. We must rededicate our temple to God, we must have faith to light the candles. It is time to let His fire, His holy light, burn within us, continually. He will not fail us. Burn for Him. Let Him transform you into a shining, burning one.

“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” John 8:12b

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

Maoz Tzur (Rock of Ages) – Jerry Weil (*in Hebrew and English*)

<https://youtu.be/ziocxPBxkjq>

Translation: Rock of Ages let our song, Praise thy saving power; Thou amidst the raging foes, Wast our shelt'ring tower.

Furious they assailed us, But Thine arm availed us, And Thy word broke their sword, When our own strength failed us.

And Thy word broke their sword, When our own strength failed us.

Pray

- Offer thanksgiving.
- That the Body of Messiah would come forth in strength and boldness in this time, knowing the One in whom their confidence is sure.

- Ask the Lord, “God - What are you doing, and how can I partner with you?” (Jessi Green)
- That we would shine and burn brightly to everyone around us and everywhere we go. That we would feel the urgency. That we would be vessels for the Fire of the Lord on this earth.