

I have attempted to write this message a dozen times and i thought a few times along the way that maybe i should just give up and walk away from it but my mind kept telling me not to.

But as you can see i have actually finished it and i admit this is one of the most difficult messages that i have researched and wrote since i began to speak

My message is about Hanukkah yes that strange Jewish celebration that we Christians really have no idea about at all and no idea at all about if we should also celebrate it but that is a choice which is up to each and every person to make themselves.

Hanukkah is a celebration of victory although most forget about the great victory but celebrate the miracle which God worked after the great victory being the one days oil supply for the candlesticks burning for 8 long incredible days yes that was indeed a miracle but there is a lot more to the reason or story why this miracle occurred as well as a lot more miracles which took place along the way.

The reason behind this celebration is prophesied about way back in the book of Daniel it is there that Daniel prophesies about a time of trouble which is led by the little horn being the King of the North.

Let me read to you some of the build up to this terrible time of trouble but from the **future time of trouble first** which also reflects back to the first time of trouble which lead to Hanukkah.

**Daniel chapter 12 verse 1** speaks of a period when there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even unto that time, and at that time your people shall be delivered----every one who shall be found written in the book.

Then verse 4 says But you, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, even to the time of the end.

Well we have been saying for a while that we are now almost at that time which Daniel is speaking about there but there was another time of trouble which Daniel spoke about that has already occurred a kind of taste of the trouble that is yet to come upon the world soon.

There was a time of severe trouble for the Jews and Jerusalem before the Lord was manifest here on Earth which Daniel spoke about and this particular time of trouble actually paved the way for Lord Jesus to be revealed here on Earth when and how He was and the victory gained from this event sparked the miracle of the oil which is celebrated in the feast of Hanukkah.

Looking at the future again in **Daniel 12:8-11** for a clue and i heard and did not understand, then i said, O my LORD, what shall be the end of these things, and He said, go your way Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end, many shall be purified and made white, and refined, But the wicked shall do wickedly, and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand, then we read this verse in Daniel which seems out of place verse 11 and from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. That part of verse 11 to me is out of place why? because that event has already happened once before so this part of verse 11 must be a dual prophecy.

How about i fill in some more of the blanks which lead up to this celebration.

And again Daniel chapter 11 contains some of the build up to this celebration the story about the king of the South and the King of the North begins in verse 3 on but the main verses start at verse **31 to 45** where we read and the forces from him shall stand up on his part, and they shall profane the sanctuary, even the stronghold, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate, and he will corrupt through flattery those who do evil against the covenant, but the people who know their God shall be strong and do exploits, and those who are wise among the people shall cause many to understand, yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by exile, and spoil, many days, now when they stumble they will be helped with a little help, but many will join themselves to the flatteries, and some of those who understand shall fall, to refine and to purify them, and to make white, to the time of the end, because it is yet even for the appointed time, now most of this has happened once before which triggered the events of the battle which lead to victory and Hanukkah and this is also once again our future that Daniel is speaking about there and time is ticking away to that future appointed time.

Daniel spoke about a king of the North who invaded the king of the South also in chapter 8 which then leads to this vicious king of the north coming to Judea and Jerusalem and sets about doing as i read above.

so chapters **8: and 11** are similar in a way kind of like a carbon copy.

I will get to chapter 8 soon because Chapter 8 is Daniel foretelling of the events which led up to Hanukkah chapter 11 just helps fill in some blanks and is also a warning to us about our frightening future **Daniel 11:36-39** and the King shall do according to his will, and he shall exalt

and magnify himself above every god and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods, and shall prosper until the indignation be accomplished, for that which is decreed shall be done, he shall not regard the gods of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god, for he shall magnify himself above all, this is some arrogant person who Daniel is speaking about but in his place he will honour the god of forces a god whom his fathers did not know shall he honour with gold and silver, and with precious stones and costly things, so he shall deal against the fortress of the strongest with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge, and shall increase with glory, he shall cause them to rule over many and he shall divide the land for a price.

I have a note beside these verses Revelation 17:4-5 18:3 and 18:16 about mystery Babylon ancient Babylon was in Selicius' part of Alexanders kingdom this is also where the King of the North which Daniel speaks about comes from and this is where the little horn of Daniel 8:9 appears from the he goat as recorded in Daniel 8:5-9 let me read Revelation 2:13 i know your works and where you dwell, where the throne of Satan is, but you are holding fast My name, and did not deny My faith, even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

The church at Pergamos was situated in the Selicius portion of Alexanders kingdom from where as i just said the little horn of Daniel 8:9 appears from.

Also a ruler rules from wherever his throne is situated and i feel that the Lord had a purpose by adding that the throne of Satan is located within the Selicius portion the same portion from where Daniel's little horn rises from and quite possibly just might be from where the future anti christ may rise from again which is within Selicius's portion as in the Hanukkah story.

And verse 9 of Daniel 8 says and out of one of them came forth a little horn, which became very great toward the South and toward the East and toward the glorious land.

The glorious land is referring to Israel.

Then we read these amazing words from Daniel 8:10-12 and it became great, even to the host of heaven, and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground and trampled upon them, yea, he magnified himself, even to the Prince of the host, and the daily sacrifice was taken away by him, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down, and the host was given to it together with the daily sacrifice because of

transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground, and it practiced and prospered.

Those verses correspond with Daniel Chapter 11 which i read out before which i feel is for time yet to come.

Now the book of Macabbees i believe holds some valuable information to add to what Daniel foretold in Chapter 8 and to the Hanukkah celebration.

The books of the Macabbees are wonderful records however the books of the Macabbees were not included in the bible and i feel as though we were meant to search for answers because those answers that we are seeking were recorded for us.

I have copied out Macabbees chapter 1 and a few verses in chapter 4 for you to look at so that you can compare them to the book of Daniel otherwise this message would go for 2 hours and while you are comparing the 2 books you will see the picture forming which led to this celebration feast and you may see the book of Daniel kind of open up.

Now for a bit of history.

Prior to the year 165 BC the Jewish people who dwelt in Judea where living under the rule of the Greek kings of Damascus.

Macabbees speaks about **in the hundred forty and third year, and went up against Israel** this is referring to the years of the oppressors rule not the year bc do not get this mixed up look into the history books do as Jesus said seek and you shall find.

During this time Seleucid King Antiochus Epiphanes the Greco-Syrian king took control of the Temple in Jerusalem and forced the Jewish people to abandon their worship of God their holy customs and reading of the Torah he also made them bow down to the Greek gods.

According to the records this King Antiochus IV defiled the Temple by sacrificing a pig on the altar and then spilling its blood on the holy scrolls of Scripture on the picture of an ancient coin bearing his name you will see the words god manifest so as you see from that statement on that coin Lord Jesus was facing quite a bit of stiff opposition to His claim as the Messiah from the Pharisees but more about our Lord soon.

The Macabbees according to **Macabbees 4:36-61** after several years of fighting cleansed the temple of all the pollutions which were placed in and around it they rebuilt the altar with new undefiled stones and they

sought out and found loyal priests who still upheld God's law they then they set about getting law and order set up once again.

**Daniel 11:33** says **Now when they stumble, they shall be helped with a little help.** This i feel may also refer back to the Macabbees as well as to the future because the LORD sure was with the Macabbees holding them up from stumbling when you read about the Macabbean wars you will see God's hand heavily guiding the Macabbees and preforming great miracles through them as well Josephus also wrote about these events.

The Jews called Antiochus Epiphanies "epi-man-es" which means crazy man and he truly was a crazy man.

Whereas one of the Hasmonean family sons Judah rose to leadership and was nicknamed "Macabee" which means in Hebrew the hammer. And he truly was with the LORD on his side a sledge hammer.

The Macabbees spurred on by their firm conviction that the God of Israel was true and faithful proved that the **impossible** could happen.

What the Macabbees achieved was nothing less than miraculous and from the recorded account of their exploits which we have we can see most clearly God's hand was with them holding them up **all the way to victory**.

Hanukkah has several names it is also known as the festival of lights and also as the bible refers to it the feast of dedication.

The Rabbis recount the miracle of Hanukkah in these terms.

On Kisleb 25 begin the Hanukkah days eight of them.

When the Greeks entered the Temple Sanctuary they contaminated all the oil.

When the Hasmoneans defeated them they searched and found only one cruse of oil bearing the High Priest's seal.

The cruse had enough oil for only one day's burning but a miracle came to pass and it lasted for eight long days.

The following year these days were declared a holiday to be celebrated with the saying of Hal-lel [that's reading Psalms 113–118] as well as other thanksgiving prayers.

The centrepiece of this Hanukkah celebration is a nine branch candelabrum.

The middle candle is called the **servant candle** and it is used to light one additional candle each night to commemorate the eight days of the miracle.

Now i have a lot more to say about this servant candle but not just yet.

In Hebrew the word "hanukkah" means "dedication."

And the name reminds us that this special feast commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem following the Jewish victory over the Syrian-Greeks in 165 B.C.E

However as i said before most people have forgotten about this victory they just remember the miracle of the oil.

There is one more book in the bible that i would like to talk about and that is the book of the gospel of John.

Now i have read John so many times over the years and yet i have been blind to something important which John was i feel telling us in fact i have wrote several messages on some of the things which John wrote about that Jesus either said or did however my timing on these saying and miracles may have been slightly off by 2-3 months.

I have made copies of where most of John's gospel record was recorded --from **John 7:10 to chapter 18** please disregard the dates and time columns but look carefully at the place column where John recorded Jesus was at in most of those chapters and you will note that all but 2 verses where Jesus left for Betharbara and then the first 16 verses of chapter 11 are about Lazarus sickness and death and then Jesus and His disciples went back to Bethany and Jerusalem then **John 11:54** tells us that Jesus went to Ephraim in Samaria for 4 verses then Jesus is back to Bethany and Jerusalem.

Please note also in the gospel of John that from **John 7:10** Jesus according to John never left Jerusalem until **John 10:40** and there is a special reason why John wrote his message i believe in this way.

The only place in those 4 chapters above where Jesus left Jerusalem is **John 8:1** where Jesus was on the Mt of Olives which is opposite the temple in Jerusalem.

Jesus was now after the events in **John ch's 8 to 10** and the raising of Lazarus to top it off as found in **John 11:53** we read that Jesus was now a marked man and our LORDS days on Earth were now numbered.

**John 11:53** tells us **therefore from that day they took counsel together so that they might kill Him.**

And when LORD Jesus next came to Jerusalem for His final Passover appointment in **John 12:1** as you know they did crucify Jesus 6 days later.

The harmony in the gospels have other events being recorded elsewhere in the record of Luke as the harmony of the gospels shows you as i handed out but as you will notice from **John 7:10 to John 10:42** it not so as i said John strangely recorded all 4 chapters from events which happened in Jerusalem only and events from **john 7:32** onwards as if it were just one event to him and for that reason when i put the events and the words and miracles of Jesus in those chapters together it makes a lot of sense to me now where Hanukkah or the feast of dedication is concerned.

So If you look at John Chapter 7 to John chapter 10:40 John records only the things which happens in Jerusalem nothing else not a thing now to me this is very strange because this record of John in those 4 chapters covers quite a period of time from the FOT to Hanukkah or as John 10 calls it the feast of dedication.

Yes Jesus may have travelled around but the Apostle John never once broke his concentration away from **Jesus at Jerusalem.**

Hanukkah received its name the Feast of Dedication because it celebrates the Macabbean victory over Greek oppression and the rededication of the Temple.

But Hanukkah is also known as the Festival of Lights and Jesus said in **John 8:12** **I AM the light of the world** was this just a coincidence that Jesus said that or did Jesus say that for a special reason was this the 1st day of Hanukkah when Lord Jesus spoke those words.

Where was Jesus when He said that well **John 8:20** places Jesus in the treasury and the treasury is where coins were donated into a treasury donation box in the woman's court remember Jesus observing the widow placing her coins in the donation box in another chapter. And what was located in this court 2 huge light towers which were lit at night but especially so on Hanukah and the picture i gave you shows these 2 huge light towers there were possibly more scattered around the temple complex.

Maybe this is what John is telling us that Jesus **the servant candle the light of the world** was present there in Jerusalem at this feast.

Was Jesus standing in between these 2 huge towers when He said i am the light of the world interesting question.

But according to Jewish tradition when the Temple was rededicated after the Macabbeen war there was only enough holy oil left in the Temple to burn the flame for one day and it would take a whole week for new oil to be processed and purified.

But at the rededication the Maccabees went ahead and lit the eternal flame with the remaining supply of oil and God's Holy presence caused it to burn miraculously for eight days until the new sacred oil was ready.

This is why the feast is also called the Festival of Lights and why the Hanukkah Menorah is lit using **the servant candle** one candle at a time for eight consecutive nights during the celebration.

The Jews also commemorate this miracle of oil provision by making oil rich foods this is an important part of Hanukkah celebrations.

John Chapter 8 begins to me a whole new story beginning with the word BUT and this period now i feel covers **all the events** and miracles which Jesus both said and did at the feast of dedication.

And Lord Jesus saying in John 8:12 I AM the light of the world and Jesus did say that He was the light more than once because Jesus repeats those same words again in John 9:5

Notice also that John records the LORDS miracle of the blind man so carefully John specifically tells us that Jesus used dust and spit to form clay in John 9:6 and 9:15.

Now to me and this is my thoughts it would appear as though John was trying to press a point by how he carefully recorded this miracle. John i feel was saying in his record of the blind man that God created man from the dust of the ground as found in Genesis 2:7 here at the feast of dedication LORD Jesus created eyes or formed eyes to make a blind man to see out of dust of the ground now that was some miracle wouldn't you say.

Maybe John is prompting us to open our eyes as well so that **we may also see.**

**one** more thing i will say about the miracle of the blind man is found in **john 9:39-40** and Jesus said, for judgment I have come into this world, so that those who do NOT see might see, and those who see might become blind, and those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things, and they said to Him, are we also blind.

Well yes they were where Jesus' claim to be the Messiah was concerned they were **totally blind.**

But getting back to Hanukkah the centrepiece of the celebration is a nine branch candelabrum.

The middle candle as i mentioned before is called the servant candle and it is used to light one additional candle each night to commemorate the eight days of God's miracle.

Look at **Matthew 20:28 and Mark 10:45** Jesus came to serve. a servant serves.

**John 12:47** Jesus King of Kings humbled like a servant. He came to Earth as flesh and blood.

**John 13:12-16** Jesus washed feet He lowered Himself to one of the lowest jobs in society a foot washer he took on the lowly position of a servant.

And on that cross Jesus died as our suffering servant.

If the people who Jesus was talking to knew their scriptures when Jesus said **I AM the light of the world** then Jesus as the suffering servant as recorded in Isaiah chapter 52:13 to the end of chapter 53 these scriptures should have sprung into their minds.

LORD Jesus was the servant candle Jesus that servant candle was here on Earth and Jesus Christ was is and will always be the light of the world as well as the light of our hearts.

The servant candle was present there in the flesh but no one could see Him they were totally blind like the Pharisees to His magnificent light.

We are told that Lord Jesus observed the celebration of Hanukkah in the Temple during the winter **John 10:22-39** now i will ask you did Jesus Understand The Importance Of Hanukkah?

Of course Jesus did while Jesus was walking in the Temple during Hanukkah the people and Pharisees demanded that Jesus tell them if He was the Messiah look at [John 8:13-25](#) and [John 10:24](#).

The scripture records that Jesus told them who He was [John 8:24](#) Jesus uses **1 AM** and again **I AM** in [John 8:28](#). Wouldn't that ring a bell loud and clear the Lord told Moses to tell the Hebrews in Egypt that **I AM** sent him remember so the name **I AM** should have triggered some brain cells into action.

This "Feast of Dedication" is the time when the Jewish nation was celebrating a holiday about deliverance from a false ruler who had declared that **he was god manifest** [John 10:33](#) records the Jews saying to Jesus **"You being a man are making Yourself God."** Who were the Pharisees referring to who had already done that once before [Antiochus Epiphanes](#) look at the picture of the coin bearing his name and inscription god manifest.

They knew the LORDS claim and they knew that this feast was a special feast and yes Jesus knew that His claim as Messiah would be rejected.

Sit back and think about the Godly wisdom and timing for Jesus to have chosen to have this place and this celebration to reveal that He is God manifest in the flesh.

Antiochus Epiphanies' made a similar claim and the coming anti Christ will do the same as well but now here is Jesus confronting the Jews and religious leaders with the truth that He is the real Messiah.

Jesus said in [John 10:31](#) **I and my Father are one**.

[John 10:30-31](#) **Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him**.

But there's more to this eight day celebration.

i believe It actually holds a prophetic end time revelation for us.

Many view this as a joyous celebration yes it is now but i feel it will be in the future a sad celebration.

And looking at world events it keeps getting sadder and more sadder as time ticks by as biblical prophecies about the end times steadily inch by inch come closer to being fulfilled.

Stand back and look at the events of 2015 what a devastating year for Christians all around the world it was and the shockwaves from those events are only going to escalate in 2016.

The bible has been desecrated by Judges in America as though swine's blood has been thrown all over its pages just like it was on the scrolls in the temple. why because man has changed God's marriage law and man believes that he can do a better job than God by creating genetically modified foods and the list of man's arrogance goes on.

Looking over the events of the past year we in Australia America and England and most of Europe have moved closer to the scenario foreshadowed in the days of the Macabees and the Hanukkah end time events.

Hanukkah presents to us a preview a glimpse of the end times events and the spirit that will envelop the world and we are given the plan for Christian endurance through the story behind this celebration more so i feel than any other biblical holyday Jesus i feel wants us to open our eyes so that we might see.

No other feast in the bible foreshadows the Antichrist the abomination that causes desolation the calling of evil good and good evil the removing of God from the public square the banning of God's Word allowing sexual immorality and the persecution of God's chosen children **only** Hanukkah fore warns us of this time.

It also reveals the strategy that end time believers need to know that may help them overcome all these things.

Yes we are fast approaching a day when true believers can still be as they have already been in the past thrown into jail for their beliefs and the majority of the world will stand back and applaud being those who do not have the true knowledge of God in them.

It is all the more crucial that we do as the wise virgins did we must prepare ourselves we must become more vigilant and wise and prepare ourselves so that we might live victoriously for such a time as this.

The Jews went underground for many years with their worship **they had to or else death was the only other option.**

Jesus celebrated Hanukkah as described in John 10:22-23 when **He walked in the temple in Solomon's porch" during the "Feast of Dedication."**

The Macabbean revolt was prophesised by Daniel more than 300 years before it occurred and the miraculous success of that revolution was still being celebrated during the time of Jesus' earthly ministry.

Remember and remember well If the Macabee revolt had not been successful then the Jewish religion and culture would have been wiped out by this mad man and the Messiah Jesus Christ could not have been born into a devout Jewish family as predicted by the Old Testament prophets.

But God's words are true and Jesus was revealed to the world right on schedule.

The Syrian Greek dictator Antiochus Epiphanes was excuse the expression hell bent on destroying every trace of God and Jewish culture and faith.

Without the Macabbean revolt and without Hanukkah there would have been no Virgin Mary and no Joseph to hear and humbly obey the voice of God.

Daniel prophesied about Antiochus Epiphanes or **"God manifest"** arising from the north and invading the Holy Land.

Much like the Islamic State has declared war on Jews and Christians today Antiochus set out to erase every trace every memory that could lead anyone to the one true God or to the history of his people.

Families circumcised their sons secretly.  
They observed the Sabbath secretly.  
To be caught meant certain death.

Why because Antonicus possessed by Satan came to the Holy land and to Jerusalem the city of God then he defied God by going into the temple with one thing on his mind to defile it he then ordered a pig or swine to be slaughtered and burnt on the altar of God then he sets up an idol in the temple and launches an all out war on the Holy scrolls the Word of God which now form part of our Holy Bible.

The Jews had a choice offer sacrifices to the idols or die.

Ask yourselves what choice will we have.

In today's Western culture at the present moment the preferred god is no longer Zeus.

It's secular-ism Every teaching is tolerated even blessed by the state that is except just one the bible.

The world's major religions are taught to children in public schools as being equal except the bible it has been outlawed in most state schools in America.

The seeds of Christian persecution has been planted in America and those seeds will spread and they will be planted here very soon.

I feel and this is my view as you may have your own that we Christians will find answers on how to deal with persecution in the Hanukkah story.

Daniel's prophecies carry a dual meaning as does many other prophets warnings Daniel forewarned about Antiochus in 167 B.C. and also i feel it is a warning for us now warning us about the antichrist in the end time and the time of the great victory over him.

So what is our future.

Well if the anti Christ is like Antonicus he is going to if he can wipe out peoples faith and the name of the one true God in the world.

He will ban the bible.

He will ban Sabbath keeping Christian worship and Holy days.

He will jail murder and persecute anyone who even hints that they are a Christian.

The Hanukkah story contains a blueprint for how to prevail against the overwhelming odds of the world and its anti Christ system.

The true Christians in the last days are being called upon to be over comers just like the Mccabees remember the messages to the 7 churches the prize is to those who overcome.

We have been given signs all through the bible about what we should look out for as God's called out people we will see apostasy breaking out all around us are we seeing that at the moment yes we are is the demonic forces working in the minds of people right now yes it is.

Look around you will see and witness evil overtaking what is good open your eyes and you will see a new morality that seeks to eradicate our faith God's word and even God Himself from the face of the Earth. What is good is being branded evil and what is evil is being exalted and called good.

Just as Revelation speaks of a temple in Jerusalem being defiled so there is an idol set up in the temple in the Hanukkah story.

In each story a man proclaims himself as god and sits in the holy place.

All the people in Antiochus' empire were to become one people all culturally mixed into one multicultural cesspool of paganism.

I have this feeling that John from chapter 7 through to chapter 10 has sent us a warning and i feel in those chapters that Jesus has sent us a warning to open our eyes Jesus Himself wants to open our eyes so that we **might see what is happening all around us** because maybe **the past is about to catch up with us and soon if we are not careful the thief will break into our house and overpower us unawares.**

Likewise in Revelation the Antichrist begins to oppress the saints of God and tries to change the set times and laws.

We are living in precarious times.

If you are a true believer then you can bet that you will be a target in the world because your beliefs.

But sad to say we are at this time already.

There is i feel more than at any other time in world history the spirit of Antichrist working in the world.

If you are for God then prepare yourselves for battle. [5471](#)