

Hanukkah
Day 1 Readings
Study by Marc Gravelle
marc@bondservantsofyeshua.ca

Many say that Hanukkah ***IS NOT*** a biblical feast and therefore, they reason, why should we celebrate it? First of all, as followers and believers in Yeshua the Messiah, we should know that Scripture tells us that Messiah Himself celebrated it, and we can see that fact displayed in *John 10:22* and therefore ***IF IT*** was important enough for our Messiah to celebrate it, then it should be just as important for us to celebrate it also. The story of how Hanukkah came to be celebrated, is a long and wonderful story of the courage of one man and his family, his five sons, who would ***NOT*** accept the ways of the world, or the tyrannical way that the world leader of the day, tried to impose upon them, ***AND*** they chose instead to continue to follow the Ways, delineated in the Words of the Torah of Yahweh, as the Levites did, when Mosheh asked the people of Yisrael at the time of the Golden calf incident, who ***WILL*** follow the Words of Yahweh's Torah, and the tribe of Levi said that they would, and they went through the camp, at that time, and slew all those that had instigated the worship of the golden calf.

The Maccabees had the same kind of courage and they stood up against the tyranny of Antiochus Epiphanies, a Greek despot that tried his best, to rid Yisrael of ***ALL*** the Words of the Torah of our heavenly Father, he tried to to rid Yisrael of ***ALL*** that was Holy and Righteous. ***BUT***, because of the courage of the family of Mattathias and His five sons, we, you and I, are privileged to have the wonderful Words of the Father's Torah of Life to read and study today, along with all of the writing of the Prophets and all other writings included in the Hebraic Scriptures, which form the Words of Elohim, Words that we are to live by.

Please understand, that ***IF*** Mattathias and his son Judah, who was called Maccabee, which means sledge hammer, and all his brothers had ***NOT*** defended their belief system, the Words of the Torah that Yahweh Himself gave to Mosheh at Mount Sinai, with such zealousness, and ***WON*** the battle, ***THEN, NOT ONLY WOULD THERE NOT BE A TEMPLE AND AN ALTAR IN JERUSALEM, BUT*** there would ***NOT BE*** any of our heavenly Father's Words to read and study, nor any of His Feasts to celebrate, because everyone would be following the Greek religion of Pantheism, and that means, that Messiah would ***NOT*** have been born, which means that there would be ***NO REASON*** for our Christian brothers and sisters to celebrate Christmas or Easter. The implication and importance of the Maccabees' Victory over Tyranny is extremely important and far reaching.

The suggested reading to open Hanukkah with is *Genesis 1:5 And Elohim called the ***light*** Day, and the darkness He called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*

What a wonderful *verse* to open Hanukkah with. I am sure that ***IF*** you have looked out of your window lately or listened to your radio or watched TV, you hear and see doom and gloom happening everywhere. Daily we are treated to a plethora of reports given to us by the world we live in, a banquet of depravity, of lusts, of greed, and worst of all, ***PRIDE***. We witness pollution, crime, drugs, wars, injustices, child prostitution, major corporations losing their investor's life

savings because of the **GREED** of their CEO's and executives, just to name a few. It is a *cesspool* of human lusts, come to rest on a world that has **CHOSEN TO DO AWAY WITH THE WORDS OF WISDOM OF THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS**, done away with the Words of *His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life* and what we see everyday **IS THE RESULT OF THE ABSENCE** of Elohim's Word, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions on holiness and righteousness, His *Living Torah*, in people's lives.

Now I want you to clear your mind of what the world has to offer for a moment, and sit back, close your eyes, and meditate on the Word of Elohim, meditate on the *verse* that we have just read, meditate on *Genesis 1:5* where it says: *And Elohim called the **LIGHT** Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*

This should bring a picture to your mind of the very first day of Creation, a day where Man had **NOT YET** had the opportunity **TO POLLUTE THE EARTH**. Now, with that fact in mind, I want you to understand and realize my friends, that, **THIS IS WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE** at the end of the Sabbath millennium, when we have a New or Renewed heaven and a New or Renewed earth, **AND MESSIAH IS OUR TEMPLE AND OUR LIGHT**. That, my friends **IS WHEN ALL THINGS WILL BE RESTORED BACK TO THE BEAUTY WITH WHICH ELOHIM CREATED IT, IN THE FIRST PLACE**, back to the Garden of Eden, where it all began, where indeed Elohim **WILL WALK WITH US** again, in the cool of the day on a daily basis.

This scene that you are now looking at in your mind's eye, is painted by the Master Himself, and every brushstroke is a thing of beauty, for **IT IS** a scene of His original design, untouched by evil, and the sins of men. This, my friends, **IS OUR REWARD, IF** we willingly and lovingly choose to believe, follow, obey and live by the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, the Words His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, and the **REWARD IS ONLY** given to the people who willingly choose to persevere in obedience to the Words of His Torah of Life, to the end. As beautiful as this scene can be in your imagination, **I BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE EVEN BETTER STILL, IN REALITY**, for we will share it with Yahweh **FOREVER**.

Elohim called the first day **GOOD** and we will be living in a state of constant **GOOD** for eternity, and the word **GOOD** in Hebrew is the word *Tov* which does mean **GOOD**, but it has a much more profound meaning, it means, **functioning in the manner that Yahweh created us to function**, and when we willingly choose to believe, follow, and **obey ALL** the Words of His Torah of Life, **THEN** and only **THEN** are we **functioning** in the manner that Yahweh created us to function.

*Genesis 1:14–18 And Elohim said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, (אֹתֹת; Ot) and for seasons, (מוֹעֵד; Moed, appointed times) and for days, (יָמִים; Yamim) and years (שָׁנָה; Shanah): 15 And let them be for **LIGHTS** in the firmament of the heaven to give light (אֹר; Or) upon the earth: and it was so. 16 And Elohim **MADE TWO GREAT LIGHTS**; the greater **LIGHT** to rule the day, and the lesser **light** to rule the night: he made the stars also. 17 And Elohim set them in the firmament of the heaven **TO***

GIVE LIGHT UPON THE EARTH, 18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and TO DIVIDE THE LIGHT from the darkness: and Elohim saw that it was GOOD.

The Hebrew letters for the word *Sign*, אֵימָן; Ot, are an Aleph, א, a Vav, ו, and a Tav, ט. The pictographic meaning of the letter Aleph is that of an *Ox* or *strong person or leader*, the Vav means *nail* or *connected to*, and the Tav means *sign* or *covenant* and in Paleo Hebrew the letter Tav is written as a cross ✠ or an X slightly slanted to one side, ✠ therefore, pictographically it can mean, *the strong leader, nailed to the cross*.

IT IS NOT A coincidence that the greater **LIGHT**, the **LIGHT** of the **SUN** is the only light visible during the day, and that the lesser light does not have any light of its own, **BUT**, it only **REFLECTS THE GREATER LIGHT** and therefore does not have the same intensity as the greater light. However, **IT IS WHEN IT IS DARKEST**, and when the *lesser light*, **MEANING US**, who have been fully exposed to the Greater Light, **THAT WE SHINE OUR BRIGHTEST**.

That, my friends, **IS** a picture **OF WHAT WE ARE TO DO**; we are to fully expose our lives to **THE BRIGHTNESS OF THE SON**, also known as the Words of the Living Torah of the Father, the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, made flesh, **IN ORDER THAT OUR LIVES, WHEN FULLY EXPOSED TO THE SON, WILL GLOW WITH HIS BRILLIANCE, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS** and bring that **RIGHTEOUS LIGHT** to many others that are trapped in darkness, in this dreary world of ours. As far as I am concerned, becoming that **LIGHT**, or better yet, reflecting that greater **LIGHT, IS THE REAL PICTURE OF HANUKKAH**, we are to take this time, this time of Hanukkah **AND REFLECT ON HOW WE CAN EXPOSE MORE OF OUR OWN LIVES TO THE SON, THE LIVING WORD OF THE FATHER, AND BECOME MORE LIKE HIM**, and let **HIS LIGHT SHINE THROUGH US**. We are to use this time to **REDEDICATE OUR TEMPLES, OUR BODIES OUR LIVES, TO BECOME WORTHY VESSELS OF HIS PURE LIGHT**.

The greater Light **IS A PICTURE OF OUR SALVATION**, for this is when the Light, the beautiful Light of Yahweh, our Messiah, the Words of the Living Torah that became flesh, was conceived and the world was made a much better place because of it. His presence **IS BRIGHTER THAN THE SUN** (*Matthew 17:2*) that we see everyday, and **YET, WE WILL BE PERMITTED, AND HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF FEASTING OUR EYES UPON HIM AND NOT BE BLINDED**. Just imagine, *a Light more powerful than the sun, A LIGHT THAT IS SO PURE THAT IN OUR CURRENT STATE, we could not even begin to look upon it, BUT WHEN WE ARE WITH HIM*, we will have the incredible joy and privilege of looking upon Him everyday.

Now, that is a great way to start Hanukkah, a great way and a great reason to re-dedicate our temples and our hearts to the One true Elohim, the Elohim of Abraham, Yitzchaq and Ya'aqov.

YAHWEH DOES NOT KEEP US IN SUSPENSE; He shows us in His Word what awaits us because of our obedience. You might wonder and ask **WHAT IS IT** that awaits us, and what **IS** our reward for loving Him with obedient surrendered hearts? **IT IS AN EVERLASTING LIFE OF EXPOSURE TO HIS PURITY AND RIGHTEOUSNESS**, with the added bonus of being at Yahweh's side forever. All I can say about that, **IS Wow**, what a wonderful Elohim we serve.

There are many *verses* which speak of Light in the Scriptures; and some of my favourites are:

Isaiah 60:19 *The sun shall **no more be** your light by day; **neither** for brightness shall the moon give light unto you: **BUT YAHWEH SHALL BE UNTO YOU AN EVERLASTING LIGHT,** and your Elohim your glory.*

Proverbs 6:23 *For the Commandment is a Lamp; and the **TORAH is LIGHT;** and **reproofs of instruction are the Way of life:** This verse is telling us that obedience to the Words of YHVH's Torah, **IS LIFE FOR US.***

Psalms 119: 105 *Your **WORD (Torah) IS** a Lamp unto my feet, and **A LIGHT** unto my Path.*

Philippians 2:12 *Therefore, my beloved, **AS YOU HAVE ALWAYS OBEYED,** (if they have always obeyed, it cannot be something **NEW,** or they could **NOT** have **ALWAYS OBEYED IT.** What **IS IT** then that they have **ALWAYS OBEYED? IT IS the Words of our heavenly Father's** Torah, the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching instructions) **NOT as in my presence only, BUT NOW much more in my absence, WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION** with fear and trembling. **13 For IT IS ELOHIM** who works in you both **TO WILL** and **TO DO** of His **GOOD PLEASURE** (obey the Words of His Torah). **14 Do ALL things without murmurings and disputings: 15 That you may be blameless and harmless, THE SONS OF ELOHIM,** without rebuke, in the midst of a **crooked and perverse nation, AMONG WHOM YOU SHINE AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD;***

We must always remember that **IT IS** the internalizing of the Words of our heavenly Father's **TORAH OF LIFE,** the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, within our hearts, and incorporating **IT** into our daily lives, which becomes the **LIGHT WITHIN US THAT WILL BE THE SALVATION OF THE WORLD.**

This Hanukkah, this time of celebration, which is called the festival of lights, let us willingly choose to please our Elohim by **REDEDICATING OUR TEMPLES, OUR LIVES AND TRULY, LIVE A LIFE, THAT SHINES OR REFLECTS THE PURE LIGHT OF OUR MESSIAH, THE WORDS OF THE LIVING TORAH MADE FLESH,** the Word of Elohim that dwells within us and directs our lives.

May you have a glorious and happy spiritual renewal this Hanukkah! Amein

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. Shalom Alechem. Amein