



# INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Dr. Peter D. Wyns

Entry 6 - I

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## Hanukkah And The Second Coming

As the purposes of God race forward, Christians will accept their partnership with Israel, and the Jews will become linked with the Gentile Church. We are now in the prophetic season of the One New Man, but we need more revelation. The middle ground of hostility between Jews and Gentiles was removed in Christ, but the outworking of our partnership is still before us. The Church must learn to honor Israel and receive an understanding of her inheritance. Israel, on the other hand, must receive Christ and embrace the Church as her younger sister. It is my place to help prepare you for this partnership. As part of this mandate, I bring you the teaching of Hanukkah. Like the stories of the Old Testament, Hanukkah is not just a Jewish story; it is a prophetic message for us all. Hanukkah laid the groundwork for Christ's birth and it helps prepare us for His second coming.

Many Christians do not know the story of Hanukkah; so I will tell it, and then share its prophetic application. Hanukkah means dedication, but the festival is called by 3 different names: The Feast of Dedication, The Festival of Lights, and the Festival of Miracles.

History provides us with more details about Hanukkah than any of the other Jewish Feasts and the Bible speaks of it clearly. John's Gospels refers to Hanukkah as the Feast of Dedication. It says:

*"Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter and Jesus was in the temple area walking in Solomon's Colonnade. The Jews gathered around him, saying, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.'" Jn. 10:22-24*

It is no accident that the Jews were asking Jesus if He was the Christ during the Festival of Lights. After all, Jesus is the Light and the Feast of Hanukkah points to Him. The Holy Spirit was just connecting the dots.

In the year, 530 BC, the prophet Daniel inadvertently, wrote about Hanukkah. In a prophetic vision

from God, he saw the conflict between God's people and the devil. The telling of it, and the victories that followed have become the story of Hanukkah.

Daniel was given the amazing prophecy 365 years before the events of Hanukkah began. In Daniel 8, he gives us the details. He says that a ram with 2 horns (Medo-Persia) ruled with great power. Then a goat (Greece) with a prominent horn (Alexander the Great) came and overpowered the ram. Then the horn was broken (Alexander died) and in its place 4 powerful horns emerged (4 Greek kingdoms). Out of one of the horns came a small horn (Antiochus IV Epiphanes). He was a demonized man, possessed by an Antichrist spirit. He rose up against the beautiful land (Israel). He reached the heights of heaven and threw down some of the stars (he over-powered God's people and killed many of them.) With satanic intent, he set himself up, above the Prince of Princes (the Lord God). He took away the daily sacrifice in the temple and truth was cast to the ground. Then, he was overthrown by God Himself, and the Jewish people rededicated their temple back to the Lord.

Then the angel Gabriel appeared before Daniel to explain the events that he saw in the vision. He gave more details and what he shared has become the Hanukkah story. Daniel recorded it and it came to pass. In Jesus' day it was known as the Feast of Dedication. Today we know it as Hanukkah.

The Medo-Persians ruled the world in 365 BC. Then, Alexander the Great overpowered them and set up his Greek kingdom. He died 2 years later and his empire was cut into 4 parts. Four governors ruled and in time an evil king rose among them. His name was Antiochus IV Epiphanes and he tyrannized the people of Israel and planned to annihilate them. He set up a statue of Zeus in the temple, but with his own face on it. He offered pig's blood and urine as the sacrificial offering and had it poured forth repeatedly in the Holy of Holies. This was the temple of the Living God. David had been commanded to build this as a house for the Lord. Many Jews were tortured and then murdered because they refused to worship the image.

In the town of Modin, 17 miles northwest of Jerusalem, an altar was built to honor Zeus. An old priest named Mattathias Maccabee

was told to sacrifice a pig on it. The Jews, who had been commanded to gather, would then be forced to eat its flesh. Mattathias and his sons could take it no longer; they rose up with indignation, killed the soldiers, and the famous Maccabean revolt began.

Six battles and 3 years later, upheld by many miracles, and against all odds, the Jews defeated their enemies. In 164 BC, they cleansed the temple and gave it back to the Lord. The statue was smashed and God's house was purified. The priests were determined to light the menorah, but they refused to burn polluted oil in it. It took 8 days to prepare oil for the lamp and they only had enough for one day. They lit it and it stayed lit for 8 days. Hanukkah is the Feast of Miracles. It all began with Daniel's prophecy so Hanukkah really is a Bible story.

Because of the Hanukkah story, the Jews were not annihilated and the door remained open for the birth of our Lord. He is the Light of the World. He is the giver of miracles. He is the one we dedicate our lives to. Hanukkah is a kingdom-of-God victory. It is about the destruction of the Antichrist spirit and the coming of the Messiah. Once we recognize Hanukkah in the book of Daniel, we realize that it is a Bible story and that makes it our story. We therefore embrace it like we embrace

the stories of Noah, Moses and Nehemiah. Hanukkah is a part of our history. Every good parent knows that their children should not overlook their godly heritage for it tells them who they are and prepares the way for their future.

The message of Hanukkah is more than a story about the past; it is also a living prophecy that points to Christ's second coming. In Da. 11, 2Thes. 2 and Rev. 13, we find that another Antichrist will set up his image in the Jewish temple. He will appear just before the second coming of Christ. Jesus said;

*"Therefore when you see standing in the holy place, the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand." Mt. 24: 15*

The world will worship the Beast until Jesus overthrows him at His coming. Hanukkah points to that; it prophesies about our victorious future and the return of the king.

The hour of spiritual partnership between Jews and Christians is before us. Saints, I ask you to honor the Jews. Bless them, learn about their inheritance and pray for their fullness. Their restoration will release a Holy Spirit revival that will set the world on fire for Christ. AΩ



## Christians for Messiah Ministries

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