

Welcome to Alpha and Omega Ministries



Shalom Dear Friends,

Welcome to Alpha and Omega Ministries! We are so delighted that you have stopped by, and we sincerely pray you will be a permanent member of our family.

Each week, Alpha and Omega Ministries will post the teaching for the weekly Torah portion on our website:

AlphaandOmegaMinistries.org OR anomin.org if you prefer the short form.

If you have any questions, please call us at 253 678 0498, and we will be happy to help you.

Alpha and Omega Ministries exists to expand the Kingdom of God by loving people and teaching the truths of the Bible from cover to cover. We see the Torah as the foundation of our faith, and we seek to show Yeshua is in every Torah portion. This is a teaching ministry in which the Jewish roots of our faith is emphasized.

Galatians 3:7-9 Understand, then, that those who have faith are sons of Abraham. The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith and foretold the gospel to Abraham. All nations will be blessed through you. So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith...

Alpha and Omega Ministries is a place of prayer, a place to belong, a place to be encouraged, a place to grow, a place to make disciples and to connect with people. **Hebrews 10:24,25** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

We'll talk more about Alpha and Omega Ministries, but for now, let's take a look at the amazing month of Kislev! We are so happy you are here!





Newsletter for the Month of Kislev - 5783 By Sherry Lush

In Kislev, the 9th month on the Jewish calendar counting from Nisan, we celebrate Chanukah! With joy we light the lights of Chanukah each night for 8 nights and remember that there was Victory! The Victory of light over darkness. The Victory of good over evil. How very encouraging this victory is considering the times in which we live. It began with just a small band, a family, who stood up to this evil of worshipping an idols. They were greatly outnumbered, by a large, well-equipped Syrian-Greek empire, but they didn't let that hinder their efforts. They stood and fought for what was right in God's eyes. And God sees, and He is on their side.

During Chanukah we also light candles to celebrate the one flask of clean oil found in the desecrated Temple. This amount of oil should only have burned for one day, but miraculously, it burned for 8 days. The oil gave light. And even in our dark world today, we are not left without light. So many verses tell us where we get light. **Psalm 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. **Psalm 19:8** The precepts of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart; the

commandments of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. And of course,

John 8:12 Once again, Jesus spoke to the people and said, "**I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life.**"

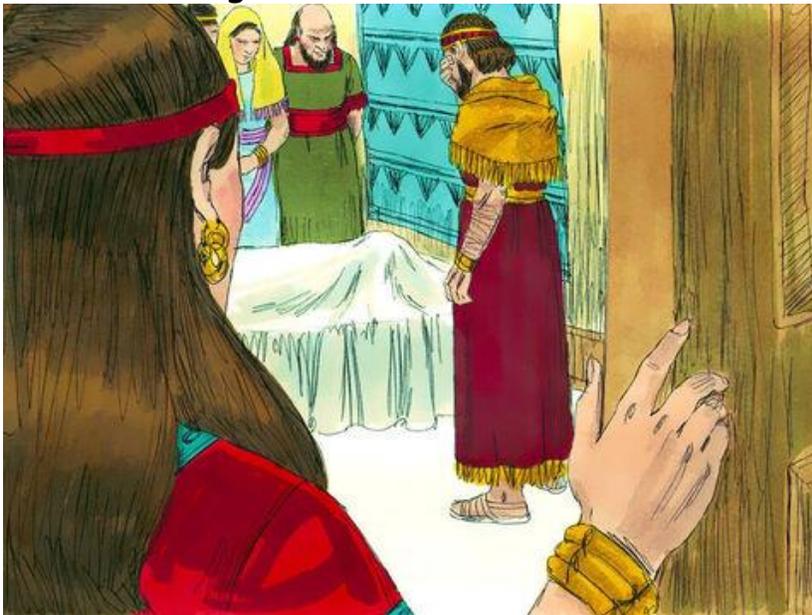
It really is true that there is nothing new under the sun. Just as the political climate of our times is turbulent, so it was 2,000 years ago. Chanukkah started out as a very political story. Israel was ruled by the Syrian-Greek empire, specifically. After the war with Egypt, Antiochus III ruled, and he looked on the Jews favorably. However, at his death, Seleucus took over, and Rome had imposed heavy taxes. Seleucus needed money to pay these taxes and learned that the Temple treasury had great wealth. The Temple treasury money was to be used for upkeep of the Temple and for care of orphans until they became of age. Yochanan the High Priest, and a righteous man, begged the messenger of Seleucus, Helyodros, not to take the money. But ignoring Yochanan, he entered the Temple, suddenly he became pale with fright and passed out. His mission was failed, and he never entered the Temple again.



Then things got worse. Seleucus was killed and his brother Antiochus IV took his place. He was tyrannical, had contempt for religion and the

feelings of other met nothing to him. He was called, "Ephiphanes" which meant "the god's beloved." Others called him, "madman" which well described this harsh and cruel king.

He wanted to unify his kingdom and the Jewish religion was a problem. Yonathan, the righteous High Priest was removed and his brother, Jason, was put in his place. He was a member of the priesthood, but used his position to spread the Greek, Hellenistic customs among others in the priesthood. Now division grew within the Jewish religion. Do you see the parallels to today? There was division within and cruel leaders with godless motives from the outside.



Later Jason was replaced by Maneiaus who promised the king that he would bring in more money - yes - it was all about money then too - and when Yochanan, the former High Priest, voiced opposition to the growth of the Hellenist movement, he was murdered! Lies, gossip and greed for power ruled these treacherous days, and these things sadly, described many of rulers of the people of God!

As Rome increased the pressure on Antiochus, he became more tyrannical. Jewish people were killed by the thousands. Antichus them made things worse. He forbade Jewish worship; scrolls of the Law were

collected and burned; Shabbat was not allowed, circumcision was done away with and if dietary laws were kept, the penalty was death. Faith was under attack by the ruling government. Then Antiochus's men traveled from town to town to force the Jewish people to worship idols, and many faithful Jewish people suffered death when standing for the One True God.

Until they came to the old priest named Mattityahu. When a Jew who practiced Hellenism came to the altar to sacrifice, Mattityahu grabbed his sword and killed him. Now, the war was on. Word of this incident spread quickly to the political authorities, and Mattityahu, his family and friends fled to the hills of Judea. Without sophisticated weapons of warfare that their enemy possessed, they had to organize gorilla



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warfare plans and carry out surprise attacks.

Prior to the death of Mattityahu, he called his sons together, encouraged them to continue the fight to defend the Torah of God and

to appoint "Judah the Strong," who became known as Maccabee. This name came from the first letters of the Hebrew words: "Mi Kamocha Be'elim Hashem," which means "Who is Like You Among the gods, Hashem!" And the Maccabee's did defeat the Syrians.

Returning to Jerusalem and upon entering the Temple desecrated by Syrian vandals, the Maccabees discovered one flask of pure oil bearing the seal of the High Priest Yochanan. This flask was enough to cause the light of the Menorah to burn for one day, but miraculously, it burned for 8 days!

To this day we celebrate the victory of the brave warriors who fought for the honor of God and the Torah and the miracle of one flask of oil that burned for 8 days!



We follow the example of Yeshua as He celebrated Chanukah, and we remember that He is the Light of the world, and He sent His Holy Spirit, as the oil that keeps the flames burning, to shine within us, so we take the Light of His love wherever we go.

John 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, **I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.**

Happy Chanukah!

Let's go out and shine in this dark world!

You Are Invited

Join us for our Chanukah Party on

December 18th, Sunday night at

6:30pm for games and lots of fun surprises.

*If you have time, please bring your favorite Chanukah dish to
share.*

*Please check in regularly for more information,
and be sure to let us know if you are coming.*

RSVP: anomin.org or text 253 678-0498

Blessings and Shalom!

