



# Glad Tidings

## The Maccabean Issue

Peace and Blessings upon all the family of Israel. May the most High in the name of his Son Jesus Christ show us mercy and strength as he did for our glorious forefathers. This month's issue is dedicated to our great fathers the Maccabees. **Apocrypha Ecclesiasticus 44:1** "Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers that begat us." **Verse 2:** "The Lord hath wrought great glory by them through his great power from the beginning." **Verse 3:** "Such as did bear rule in their kingdoms, men renowned for their power, giving counsel by their understanding, and declaring prophecies:" **Verse 4:** "Leaders of the people by their counsels, and by their knowledge of learning meet for the people, wise and eloquent are their instructions:" **Verse 5:** "Such as found out musical tunes, and recited verses in writing:" **Verse 6:** "Rich men furnished with ability, living peaceably in their habitations:" **Verse 7:** "All these were honoured in their generations, and were the glory of their times." **Verse 8:** "There be of them, that have left a name behind them, that their praises might be reported."

Therefore we report of their legacy; a dynasty that fought against all adversity. Who gave us days to remember the works of the Lord. For the most High prophesied of their chastisement and deliverance.

It began with Alexander the Great the first king over Greece. **Daniels 8:21** "And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king." **1st Maccabees 1:1** "And it happened, after that Alexander son of Philip, the Macedonian, who came out of the land of Chettim, had smitten Darius king of the Persians and Medes, that he reigned in his stead, the first over Greece," **Verse 2:** "And made many wars, and won many strong holds, and slew the kings of the earth," **Verse 3:** "And went through to the ends of the earth, and took spoils of many nations, insomuch that the earth was quiet before him; whereupon he was exalted and his heart was lifted up." **Verse 4:** "And he gathered a mighty strong host and ruled over countries, and nations, and kings, who became tributaries unto him." After many centuries, Alexander's legacy continues to be spoken of. Yet his power to conquer nations did not come from his own strength but from God that set up the basest of men to rule (Please read, **Daniel 4:17**). We admonish you to not be deceive into believing that civilization started in Greece. Greater kingdoms were before them such as the kingdom of Solomon. Yet we could firmly say that from the rise of the Greek civilization great wickedness multiplied upon the earth. Thus the Greeks were influential in the philosophies of this "modern" western civilization.

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The word Decem is Latin (language of the Romans) which means tenth. In the past it was known to all that the tenth month began about this season and not the twelfth. This is why the feast of dedication is kept in the ninth month in harsh winter. See, 1st Maccabees 4:5, 52-61 and John 10:22.

# ~~December 2004~~

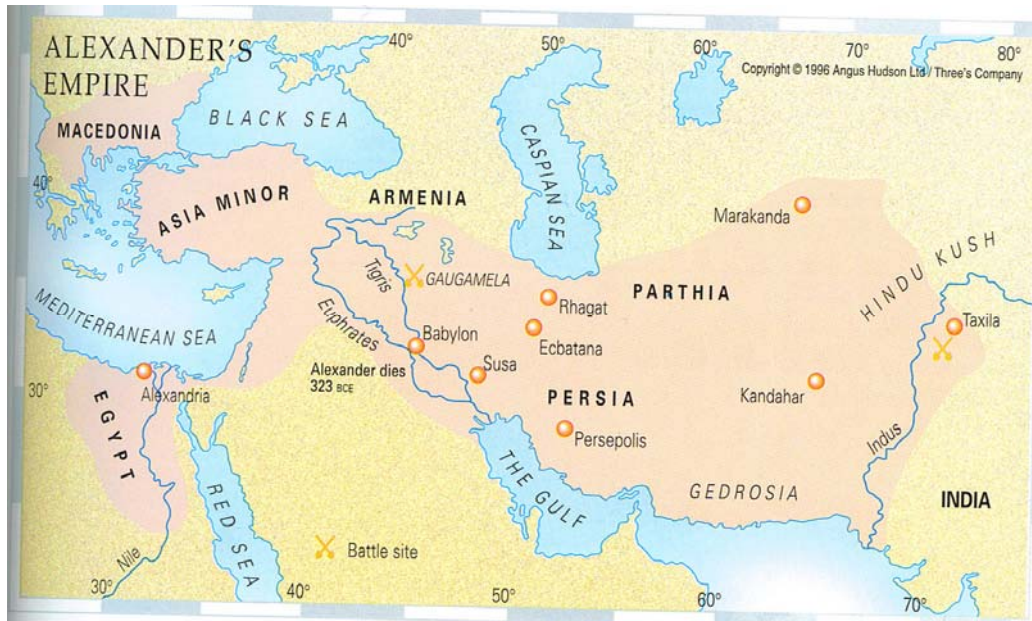
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 <i>Sabbath at even</i>	4 <i>Sabbath ends at even</i>
5 <i>Begins Feast of Dedication at even</i>	6 <i>Sabbath ends at even</i>	7	8	9	10 <i>Sabbath at even</i>	11 Sabbath ends at even, New Moon
12 <i>Last Day Begins at even</i>	13 <i>Sabbath ends at even</i>	14	15	16	17 <i>Sabbath at even</i>	18 <i>Sabbath ends at even</i>
19	20	21	22	23	24 <i>Sabbath at even</i>	25 <i>Sabbath ends at even</i>
26	27	28	29	30	31 <i>Sabbath at even</i>	

If December is really the tenth month then that means that January would be the 11th month and not the start of a new year. January was name after a false pagan god Janus. There are twelve months in the calendar and the new year begins in Spring. See, Esther 3:7 and Numbers 28:16, 26. The New Year is celebrated not in winter when nothing grows but in Spring when the first fruits begin to show.

# ~~January 2005~~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>Sabbath ends at even</i>
2	3	4	5	6	7 <i>Sabbath at even</i>	8 <i>Sabbath ends at even</i>
9 New Moon at evening	10	11	12	13	14 <i>Sabbath at even</i>	15 <i>Sabbath ends at even</i>
16	17	18	19	20	21 <i>Sabbath at even</i>	22 <i>Sabbath ends at even</i>
23	24	25	26	27	28 <i>Sabbath at even</i>	29 <i>Sabbath ends at even</i>
30	31					

# Classical Greece



The rule of Alexander was short lived and when he was aware of his upcoming death he divided his kingdom. **1st Maccabees 1:5** “And after these things he fell sick, and perceived that he should die.” **Verse 6:** “Wherefore he called his servants, such as were honourable, and had been brought up with him from his youth, and parted his kingdom among them, while he was yet alive.” **Verse 7:** “So Alexander reigned twelve years, and then died.” **Verse 8:** “And his servants bare rule every one in his place.” All this was done to fulfill the most High’s word. **Daniel 8:21** “And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.” **Verse 22:** “Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.” Alexander’s kingdom was divided into four parts (read also, **Daniel 11:2-5**); (1) Cassander ruled over Greece/Macedonia, (2) Ptolemy ruled Egypt, (3) Lysimachus ruled over Thrace and Asia Minor and (4) Seleucus ruled over Syria to Babylon. **1st Maccabees 1:9** “And after his death they all put crowns upon themselves; so did their sons after them many years: and evils were multiplied in the earth.” After many wars between the Ptolemaic and Seleucid empires, Jerusalem became a city plagued by a fierce king. **1st Maccabees 1:10** “And there came out of them a wicked root Antiochus surnamed Epiphanes, son of Antiochus the king, who had been an hostage at Rome, and he reigned in the hundred and thirty and seventh year of the kingdom of the Greeks.” Antiochus surnamed Epiphanes (which means God manifest) was of the Seleucid empire and the word of the Lord spoke of his reign.

**Daniel 8:23** “And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.” **Verse 24:** “And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.” **Verse 25:** “And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.”

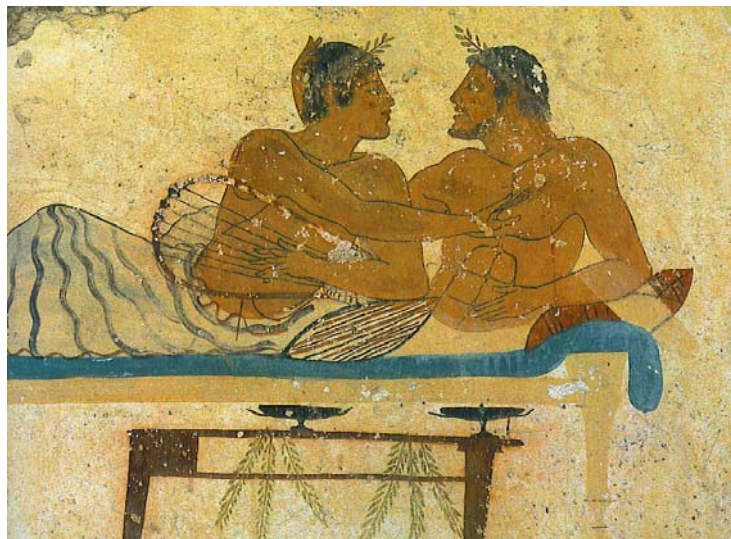
By his policy he attempted to Hellenize the children of Israel. **1st Maccabees 1:41** “Moreover king Antiochus wrote to his whole kingdom, that all should be one people,” **Verse 42:** “And every one should leave his laws: so all the heathen agreed according to the commandment of the king.” **Verse 43:** “Yea, many also of the Israelites consented to his religion, and sacrificed unto idols, and profaned the sabbath.” **Verse 44:** “For the king had sent letters by messengers unto Jerusalem and the cities of Juda that they should follow the strange laws of the land,” **Verse 45:** “And forbid burnt offerings, and sacrifice, and drink offerings, in the temple; and that they should profane the sabbaths and festival days:” **Verse 46:** “And pollute the sanctuary and holy people:” **Verse 47:** “Set up altars, and groves, and chapels of

# Classical Greece

idols, and sacrifice swine's flesh, and unclean beasts:" **Verse 48:** "That they should also leave their children uncircumcised, and make their souls abominable with all manner of uncleanness and profanation:" **Verse 49:** "To the end they might forget the law, and change all the ordinances." To a certain extent this king was successful for after many years when the Romans came into power, Paul had to educate many so called Gentiles of their true heritage of an Israelite.

This is the beginning of the evils that were committed in Israel. Greekish fashions were introduced that were against the laws of God. **2nd Maccabees 4:10** "Which when the king had granted, and he had gotten into his hand the rule he forthwith brought his own nation to Greekish fashion." **Verse 11:** "And the royal privileges granted of special favour to the Jews by the means of John the father of Eupolemus, who went ambassador to Rome for amity and aid, he took away; and **putting down the governments** which were according to the law, he brought up new customs against the law:" Politics (democracy) was introduced to Israel, which was contrary to the laws (read also **2nd Maccabees 8:17**).

**2nd Maccabees 4:12** "For he built gladly a place of exercise under the tower itself, and brought the chief young men under his subjection, and made them wear a hat." The modern name for a place of exercise is gymnasium, which is a Greek word that comes from gunnos which means naked. The gymnasium was the favorite place of the Greeks, a place of exhibitions of young strong men playing games. Sex between man and boy was common, usually the result of a gymnasium encounter. **2nd Maccabees 4:13** "Now such was the height of Greek fashions, and increase of heathenish manners, through the exceeding profaneness of Jason, that ungodly wretch, and no high priest;" **Verse 14:** "That the priests had no courage to serve any more at the altar, but despising the temple, and neglecting the sacrifices, hastened to be partakers of the **unlawful allowance in the place of exercise, after the game of Discus** called them forth;" **Verse 15:** "Not setting by the honours of their fathers, but liking the glory of the Grecians best of all."



**To the Left:** a discus thrower. Custom created by the Greeks in honor of their false gods.

**To the Right:** Male banquet guest get intimate in this 5th century fresco

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**2nd Maccabees 6:1** “Not long after this the king sent an old man of Athens to compel the Jews to depart from the laws of their fathers, and not to live after the laws of God.” **Verse 2:** “And to pollute also the temple in Jerusalem, and to call it the temple of Jupiter Olympius; and that in Garizim, of Jupiter the Defender of strangers, as they did desire that dwelt in the place.” **Verse 3:** “The coming in of this mischief was sore and grievous to the people:” **Verse 4:** “For the temple was filled with riot and revelling by the Gentiles, who dallied with harlots (prostitutes), and had to do with women within the circuit of the holy places, and besides that brought in things that were not lawful.” **Verse 5:** “The altar also was filled with profane things, which the law forbiddeth.” **Verse 6:** “Neither was it lawful for a man to keep sabbath days or ancient feasts, or to **profess himself at all to be a Jew.**” **Verse 7:** “And in the day of the king's birth every month they were brought by bitter constraint to eat of the sacrifices; and when the feast of Bacchus was kept, the Jews were compelled to go in procession to Bacchus, carrying ivy.” All those lewd acts were the customs of Greeks. Bacchus the god of wine, revellings (partying) and riotous living, was one of the many idols worshipped in Greece. In honor to this false god, the Greeks had orgies. Today this same Idol is worshipped in Caribbean Festivals such as the Carnival of Baccanal.

Many atrocities befell the Jews, for it was forbidden them to keep any of the laws of God. **1st Maccabees 1:57** “And whosoever was found with any the book of the testament, or if any committed to the law, the king's commandment was, that they should put him to death.” **Verse 58:** “Thus did they by their authority unto the Israelites every month, to as many as were found in the cities.” **Verse 60:** “At which time according to the commandment they put to death certain women, that had caused their children to be circumcised.” **Verse 61:** “And they hanged the infants about their necks, and rifled their houses, and slew them that had circumcised them.” **Verse 62:** “Howbeit many in Israel were fully resolved and confirmed in themselves not to eat any unclean thing.” **Verse 63:** “Wherefore the rather to die, that they might not be defiled with meats, and that they might not profane the holy covenant: so then they died.”

Written within our history there are many that should be praised for their bravery, in that they died to keep the laws. Their graphic deaths could be read to encourage us that we should stand firm for all the laws of the Father until death. Starting with the righteous Elder Eleazer who chose to die than to blemish his name by eating swine's flesh. Please read the testimony in **2nd Maccabees 6:12-31**. A mother of seven Israelite men, that endured the torture of a wicked tyrant ruler. Seeing her sons being put to death before her eyes, and then at the end receiving the same punishment as her children. May the most High bless them for ever, please read of them in **2nd Maccabees chapter 7**.

This was the world under the rulership of the Grecians: a world full of corruption. Many historians overestimate the legacy of the Greeks. They teach us that it was filled with intellectual geniuses, such as Socrates, Plato, etc. All the contributions they brought upon the world was nothing but superstitions and lewdness.

**Acts 17:22** “Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.”

**Proverbs 29:2** “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.”

# FEAST OF DEDICATION

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**Daniel 11:31** *“And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.”*

As the prophecy in Daniel stated the persecutions by arms upon the people of Israel was going to prosper in the hands of Antiochus, whereas he had received enough power to set up altars unto his Idols and defile the sanctuary of the most High.

**Daniel 11:32** *“And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.”* As it was stated before many of the wicked Israelites consented to his religion and ways. While on the other hand you had Israelites that kept the commandments and were strong. This began with the father of the Maccabees, Mattathias a priest from Jerusalem. An officer of the king (Antiochus) was sent to provoke the people to rebel against the laws of God. He enticed Mattathias with promises of receiving great rewards from the king (**1st Maccabees 2:15-19**). But Mattathias responded to him in such manner **1st Maccabees 2:20** *“Yet will I and my sons and my brethren walk in the covenant of our fathers.”* **Verse 21:** *“God forbid that we should forsake the law and the ordinances.”* **Verse 22:** *“We will not hearken to the king's words, to go from our religion, either on the right hand, or the left.”* Right after he said those words one of the wicked Israelites performed the sacrifice that the king required before them all. This inflamed Mattathias to perform a zealous act.

**1st Maccabees 2:24** *“Which thing when Mattathias saw, he was inflamed with zeal, and his reins trembled, neither could he forbear to shew his anger according to judgment: wherefore he ran, and slew him upon the altar.”* **Verse 25:** *“Also the king's commissioner, who compelled men to sacrifice, he killed at that time, and the altar he pulled down.”* Thus leading the first revolt against the kingdom of the Greeks. After this all they that voluntarily kept the laws of God joined him and his family and fled with them to the wilderness.

**1st Maccabees 2:49** *“Now when the time drew near that Mattathias should die, he said unto his sons, Now hath pride and rebuke gotten strength, and the time of destruction, and the wrath of indignation.”* **Verse 50:** *“Now therefore, my sons, be ye zealous for the law, and give your lives for the covenant of your fathers.”* In his speech he exhorted them of deliverance the Lord gave to them that were faithful. He gave them counsel and appointed Judas as the captain over the people.

**1st Maccabees 2:66** *“As for Judas Maccabeus, he hath been mighty and strong, even from his youth up: let him be your captain, and fight the battle of the people.”* Wherefore Judas began to fight valiantly for the people, as a lion he devoured the prey and rooted out the wicked amongst the people. Yet the Abomination of Desolation had not been destroyed out of the Land and the sanctuary laid waste.

**1st Maccabees 1:54** *“Now the fifteenth day of the month Casleu, in the hundred forty and fifth year, they set up the abomination of desolation upon the altar, and builded idol altars throughout the cities of Juda on every side;”*

**1st Maccabees 3:45** *“Now Jerusalem lay void as a wilderness, there was none of her children that went in or out: the sanctuary also was trodden down, and aliens kept the strong hold; the heathen had their habitation in that place; and joy was taken from Jacob, and the pipe with the harp ceased.”* After being victorious in a great battle his fame went through out all nations (**1st Maccabees 3:1-60**). Wherefore the king appointed a great army to destroy the people of Israel.

The sum of the Army of the Greeks led by Gorgias was five thousand footmen and a thousand of the best horsemen (**1st Maccabees 4:1-4**). **1st Maccabees 4:5** *“In the mean season came Gorgias by night into the camp of Judas: and when he found no man there, he sought them in the mountains: for said he, These fellows flee from us.”* **Verse 6:** *“But as soon as it was day, Judas shewed himself in the plain with three thousand men, who nevertheless had neither armour nor*

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swords to their minds.” **Verse 7:** “And they saw the camp of the heathen, that it was strong and well harnessed, and compassed round about with horsemen; and these were expert of war.” Judas only had three thousand who were not trained to war. Yet with his exhortation and his faith in God defeated this army (**1st Maccabees 4:8-24**).

**1st Maccabees 4:25** “Thus Israel had a great deliverance that day.” **Verse 26:** “Now all the strangers that had escaped came and told Lysias what had happened:” **Verse 27:** “Who, when he heard thereof, was confounded and discouraged, because neither such things as he would were done unto Israel, nor such things as the king commanded him were come to pass.” **Verse 28:** “The next year therefore following Lysias gathered together threescore thousand choice men of foot, and five thousand horsemen, that he might subdue them.” Lysias a nobleman was entrusted by Antiochus to oversee his affairs. Therefore when he heard of the defeat he purposed in his heart to come with a greater army to subdue Judas and his company. In the winter (mean season) of the following year he gathered an army of *threescore thousand choice foot men*. A score is twenty; therefore his footmen was of sixty thousand and five thousand horsemen, this is truly a great number.

**1st Maccabees 4:29** “So they came into Idumea, and pitched their tents at Bethsura, and Judas met them with ten thousand men.” **Verse 30:** “And when he saw that mighty army, he prayed and said, Blessed art thou, O Saviour of Israel, who didst quell the violence of the mighty man by the hand of thy servant David, and gavest the host of strangers into the hands of Jonathan the son of Saul, and his armourbearer;” **Verse 31:** “Shut up this army in the hand of thy people Israel, and let them be confounded in their power and horsemen:” **Verse 32:** “Make them to be of no courage, and cause the boldness of their strength to fall away, and let them quake at their destruction:” **Verse 33:** “Cast them down with the sword of them that love thee, and let all those that know thy name praise thee with thanksgiving.” **Verse 34:** “So they joined battle; and there were slain of the host of Lysias about five thousand men, even before them were they slain.”

Truly these men were strong and committed great exploits as the word declared. Yet we must acknowledge that his strength was come from above. **2nd Maccabees 10:1** “Now Maccabeus and his company, the Lord guiding them, recovered the temple and the city:” **1st Maccabees 4:36** “Then said Judas and his brethren, Behold, our enemies are discomfited: let us go up to cleanse and dedicate the sanctuary.” **Verse 37:** “Upon this all the host assembled themselves together, and went up into mount Sion.” **Verse 38:** “And when they saw the sanctuary desolate, and the altar profaned, and the gates burned up, and shrubs growing in the courts as in a forest, or in one of the mountains, yea, and the priests’ chambers pulled down;” **Verse 39:** “They rent their clothes, and made great lamentation, and cast ashes upon their heads,” **Verse 40:** “And fell down flat to the ground upon their faces, and blew an alarm with the trumpets, and cried toward heaven.” **Verse 41:** “Then Judas appointed certain men to fight against those that were in the fortress, until he had cleansed the sanctuary.” **Verse 42:** “So he chose priests of blameless conversation, such as had pleasure in the law:” **Verse 43:** “Who cleansed the sanctuary, and bare out the defiled stones into an unclean place.”

**2nd Maccabees 10:2** “But the altars which the heathen had built in the open street, and also the chapels, they pulled down.” **Verse 3:** “And having cleansed the temple they made another altar, and striking stones they took fire out of them, and offered a sacrifice after two years, and set forth incense, and lights, and shewbread.” **Verse 5:** “Now upon the same day that the strangers profaned the temple, on the very same day it was cleansed again, even the five and twentieth day of the same month, which is Casleu.” This was truly a blessing from the most High to the children of Israel, seeing he cleansed his sanctuary in the same day it was defiled a few years back.

**1st Maccabees 4:58** “Thus was there very great gladness among the people, for that the reproach of the heathen was put away.” **Verse 59:** “Moreover Judas and his brethren with the whole congregation of Israel ordained, that the days of the dedication of the altar should be kept in their season from year to year by the space of eight days, from the five and twentieth day of the month Casleu, with mirth and gladness.” Shalam!

# The Keeping OF the FEAST

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**2nd Maccabees 1:18** “Therefore whereas we are now purposed to keep the purification of the temple upon the five and twentieth day of the month Casleu, we thought it necessary to certify you thereof, that ye also might keep it, **as the feast of the tabernacles**, and of the fire, which was given us when Neemias offered sacrifice, after that he had builded the temple and the altar.”

Our fathers ordained the Feast of Dedication to be kept as the feast of Tabernacles which lasted eight days. Those same eight days they rejoice at the first when the reproach from the heathen was removed from them. Why was such commandment made?

**2nd Maccabees 10:5** “Now upon the same day that the strangers profaned the temple, on the very same day it was cleansed again, even the five and twentieth day of the same month, which is Casleu.” **Verse 6:** “And they **kept the eight days with gladness, as in the feast of the tabernacles**, remembering that not long afore they had held the feast of the tabernacles, when as they wandered in the mountains and dens like beasts.” **Verse 7:** “Therefore they bare branches, and fair boughs, and palms also, and sang psalms unto him that had given them good success in cleansing his place.” **Verse 8:** “They ordained also by a common statute and decree, That every year those days should be kept of the whole nation of the Jews.” Therefore we must be reminded of the statutes of the Feast of Tabernacles. One that was mentioned already is that they carried boughs and palms to build booths/tents as in the Feast of Tabernacles. As we ourselves should do in the feast of tabernacles and dedication.

**Leviticus 23:40** “And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.” **Verse 41:** “And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month.” **Verse 42:** “Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:”

The first day and the eighth day is a Sabbath of rest which means no work. **Leviticus 23:35** “On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.” **Verse 39:** “Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the **first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath**.” Therefore no buying or selling is allowed for it’s a Sabbath, please read **Nehemiah 10:31**. Yet cooking is allowed for the feast as long it doesn’t fall on the weekly Sabbath.

Therefore we understand that we must rejoice wholly before the Lord within those eight days. Knowing that our forefathers were led by God in making this ordinance. For when Moses finished building the altar, the purification of it was received honorably by the Lord. Also Solomon being wise consecrated the temple of the Lord during the feast of Tabernacles and with this occasion he held a feast and the Lord heard his prayer. **2nd Maccabees 2:8** “Then shall the Lord shew them these things, and the glory of the Lord shall appear, and the cloud also, as it was shewed under Moses, and as when Solomon desired that the place might be honourably sanctified.” **Verse 9:** “It was also declared, that he being wise offered the sacrifice of dedication, and of the finishing of the temple.” **Verse 10:** “And as when Moses prayed unto the Lord, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the sacrifices: even so prayed Solomon also, and the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offerings.” **Verse 11:** “And Moses said, Because the sin offering was not to be eaten, it was consumed.” **Verse 12:** “So Solomon kept those eight days.”

**2 Chronicles 7:1** “Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.” **Verse 8:** “Also at the same time Solomon

# The Keeping OF the FEAST

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kept the feast seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt.” **Verse 9:** “And in the eighth day they made a solemn assembly: for they kept the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days.” **Verse 10:** “And on the three and twentieth day of the seventh month he sent the people away into their tents, glad and merry in heart for the goodness that the LORD had shewed unto David, and to Solomon, and to Israel his people.”

Here is declared the Glorious Feast of Dedication that Solomon held in his time during the feast of Tabernacles. **1st Kings 8:2** “And all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto king Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month.” The feast the men went up to celebrate according to the law in **Deuteronomy 16:16** was the feast of Tabernacles.

Therefore let us keep this ordinance remembering the sacrifice that our forefathers did to live according to the laws. Commending them for their wisdom in the scriptures, being guided from God in their judgment. **John 10:22** “And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter.” **Verse 23:** “And Jesus walked in the temple in Solo-

## HELP FROM ABOVE

As I read the books of the Maccabees I was amazed of the victories they had over their enemies. Being always tremendously outnumbered, they defeated their opponents. Yet what is more shockingly amazing is the accuracy of the prophecies of the Father and their fulfillment. **Daniel 11:32** “...but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.” **Verse 33:** “And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.” **Verse 34:** “Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: ...” This is what the Lord said of them. Can you believe that the Lord said the help he gave them was a little help!

**2nd Maccabees 10:27** “So after the prayer they took their weapons, and went on further from the city: and when they drew near to their enemies, they kept by themselves.” **Verse 28:** “Now the sun being newly risen, they joined both together; the one part having together with their virtue their refuge also unto the Lord for a pledge of their success and victory: the other side making their rage leader of their battle” **Verse 29:** “But when the battle waxed strong, there appeared unto the enemies from heaven five comely men upon horses (angels), with bridles of gold, and two of them led the Jews,” **Verse 30:** “And took Maccabeus betwixt them, and covered him on every side weapons, and kept him safe, but shot arrows and lightnings against the enemies: so that being confounded with blindness, and full of trouble, they were killed.” **Verse 31:** “And there were slain of footmen twenty thousand and five hundred, and six hundred horsemen.”

**2nd Maccabees 11:6** “Now when they that were with Maccabeus heard that he besieged the holds, they and all the people with lamentation and tears besought the Lord that he would send a good angel to deliver Israel.” **Verse 7:** “Then Maccabeus himself first of all took weapons, exhorting the other that they would jeopard themselves together with him to help their brethren: so they went forth together with a willing mind.” **Verse 8:** “And as they were at Jerusalem, there appeared before them on horseback one in white clothing, shaking his armour of gold.” **Verse 9:** “Then they praised the merciful God all together, and took heart, insomuch that they were ready not only to fight with men, but with most cruel beasts, and to pierce through walls of iron.” **Verse 10:** “Thus they marched forward in their armour, having an helper from heaven: for the Lord was merciful unto them” Thus we have a good God that regards his people and never forsakes them but keeps his covenant between his lips and fulfills his word.

# CHRISTMAS OR NIMRODDAS?

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The origin of this so called holiday known today as Christmas began in ancient Babylon. Every aspect of this yearly celebration is towards the worship of Nimrod. **Genesis 10:8** “*And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.*” **Verse 9:** “*He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.*” **Verse 10:** “*And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel,....*” Nimrod was the ruler that influenced the people into building the tower of Babel.

Today so called Christians uphold many ancient Babylonian traditions that were before Christ, because of the craftiness of the Roman Catholic Church. **Jeremiah 10:2** “*Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.*” The Heavenly Father is commanding the children of Israel to not learn the customs/philosophies of the nations. To distinguish what are the ways of the heathen we must learn the laws. **Proverbs 30:5** “*Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.*”

Jeremiah warns us not to be “*dismayed at the signs of heaven*” which is a custom that is against the laws of God known as astrology (**Deuteronomy 18:9-14**). Because the nations are dismayed at the “*signs of heaven*” such as the stars, moon, etc.

**Jeremiah 10:3** “*For the customs of the people are vain (unprofitable): for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.*” This worthless custom involved a man going out to the forest and cutting down a tree with an axe.

**Jeremiah 10:4** “*They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.*” After cutting down the tree it is brought into the home and nailed to the floor so it wouldn’t fall. Once it was secured to the ground, they deck/decorated it with silver and gold. Does this sound familiar? In this age instead of using an axe to cut down the tree you might use a chain saw. Afterwards you would secure the tree to the ground with a tree stand. Once it is standing upright you will begin decorating it with gold and silver tinsels. It is amazing how after thousands of years the custom has not changed!

**Jeremiah 10:5** “*They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.*” In ancient Babylon and Egypt they used the palm tree for this ungodly custom. In ancient Rome the fir tree was used whereas here in America it’s the ever-green tree. The Lord our God said to “*Be not afraid of them*”, because the ancient Babylonians were deceived into believing that if you didn’t present those gifts of gold and silver the spirit of Nimrod would enter the tree and make it speak. But we are shown that it is nothing but a false god that “*speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go*”. Meaning the tree can not move on its own it must be carried, therefore there is no power in them to do good (to give blessings) or evil (to punish).

“*Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.*” This saying of the Lord reminds me of the indoctrination given to children while they are young: He sees you when you are sleeping, he knows when you are awake, he knows if you have been bad or good so you better be good for goodness sake, hey you better watch out, you better not cry.... Therefore having them believe that Santa (Satan) Claus is a god.

We are taught as children that the birth date of Christ is December 25th, yet what scripture says that? The word of God

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says in **1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:21** “*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*” There is no scripture that gives us the date of the birth of Christ. Where does this date originate from? The mother/wife of Nimrod was worshipped as the Queen of Heaven (please read, **Jeremiah 7:17-19**) which had other different names. Semiramis was one of the name she was known by in Babylon, the woman who gave life again to Nimrod as Tammuz (read, **Ezekiel 8:14-17**) through a virgin birth (Immaculate Conception). Therefore December 25<sup>th</sup> was celebrated as the birthday of the victorious sun god reappearance; the Romans called it *Natalis Invicti Solis* (Birthday of Unconquered Sun).

Did you notice that the custom of the Christmas tree was centuries before Christ? Jeremiah was a prophet of the so called Old Testament!

**Deuteronomy 12:32** “*What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.*” We are commanded to only follow the words of God. To the words of the Father we can not add or diminish. Where in the Bible can we read the commandment for us to celebrate Christmas? It’s not there; therefore according to the words of the Lord we must conclude this. **Proverbs 30:6** “*Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.*” In order words there’s no justification for observing Christmas or Three Kings Day. Shalam!

## New Years

**Daniels 7:25** “*And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.*” This scripture is teaching us that this wicked kingdom will attempt to defy the most High. For he thinks to change times and laws. It should be common knowledge in the world that the year has twelve months. Yet it is necessary to bring this question to your mind, when is the New Year?

Beginning with our research we must understand that our Calendar is based upon the Bible, which is a lunar Calendar and our first month is in what is commonly known as March or April. But in the Bible this month is called Abib. **Exodus 34:18** “*The feast of unleavened bread shalt thou keep. Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, as I commanded thee, in the time of the month Abib: for in the month Abib thou camest out from Egypt.*” **Exodus 12:18** “*In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even.*” This is the same month in which we observe the feast of unleavened bread also known as Passover. There we acknowledge the month of Abib to be the New Year. Do not be conformed to this world’s ways. **Romans 12:2** “*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*” Put off now the riotous living and the revellings. **Romans 13:13** “*Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.*” **Verse 14:** “*But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.*”

If you examine the calendar of this world (Gregorian) you will notice the error of the wicked one. Beginning with the month of September which comes from septem which means seven. The name itself is declaring to you the proper month number, yet you have been deceived to believe it’s the ninth month. October which means eight from the word octo. For example if I ask you what is an **Octagon** you will tell me is a polygon with eight sides. November means ninth month from the word novem. All these words originate from Latin. Finally December which is upheld to be the 12th month of the year in reality is the tenth for the name bears it’s origin which is decem which means ten. Therefore if you observe so called New Years Day in January you have forsaken wisdom. **Jonah 2:8** “*They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.*”



**2nd Maccabees 5:2** “And then it happened, that through all the city, for the space almost of forty days, there were seen horsemen running in the air, in cloth of gold, and armed with lances, like a band of soldiers,” **Verse 2:** “And troops of horsemen in array, encountering and running one against another, with shaking of shields, and multitude of pikes, and drawing of swords, and casting of darts, and glittering of golden ornaments, and harness of all sorts.” **Verse 3:** “Wherefore every man prayed that that apparition might turn to good.”

If you have any questions or concerns about the Newsletter please contact us. We are also open to suggestions for topics, thank you.

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## Sum of all things

**2nd Maccabees 2:19** “Now as concerning Judas Maccabeus, and his brethren, and the purification of the great temple, and the dedication of the altar, “ **Verse 20:** “And the wars against Antiochus Epiphanes, and Eupator his son,” **Verse 21:** “And the manifest signs that came from heaven unto those that behaved themselves manfully to their honour for Judaism: so that, being but a few, they overcame the whole country, and chased barbarous multitudes, “ **Verse 22:** “And recovered again the temple renowned all the world over, and freed the city, and upheld the laws which were going down, the Lord being gracious unto them with all favour:” **Verse 23:** “All these things, I say, being declared by Jason of Cyrene in five books, we will assay

to abridge in one volume.” **Verse 24:** “For considering the infinite number, and the difficulty which they find that desire to look into the narrations of the story, for the variety of the matter,” **Verse 25:** “We have been careful, that they that will read may have delight, and that they that are desirous to commit to memory might have ease, and that all into whose hands it comes might have profit.”

This is how we desire to end telling the story of such a great man. Judas was not the only great one for he had his brethren who accomplish also great things. We hope we have helped you learn some of the history that changed the face of Israel for ever. This era was the beginning of the Hellenistic time period

and to this day it continues. For our people are deceived into believing that they are Gentiles.

Please do not stop here in searching more of this history but commit to memory what you have already learned and furnish it.

This last paragraph is to remind you all that we are constantly fighting evil and as good soldiers we must endure until the end. Our hope and comfort should be within the scriptures, for faith could move a man to defeat any giant. Currently we are that mustard seed with much pains and labors ahead of us. But the suffering of this present time is nothing to be compared with what is in store for us. This same hope had all those who died with this substance not seen.