

## Why We as Messianic Believers Do Not Celebrate Christmas but Celebrate Hanukah and YHWH's Feasts Instead

Rabbin Deborah Brandt M.Div

Deborah's Messianic Ministries

Many of us come from a background where our families celebrate the holiday known as Christmas, it was part of our tradition. However, we found out that God has a set of true Holy Days, found in Leviticus 23 which are His feasts, and Christmas is not one of them.

Lev 23:1 Then Adonai spoke to Moses saying:

Lev 23:2 "Speak to Bnei-Yisrael, and tell them: **These are the appointed moadim of Adonai, which you are to proclaim to be holy convocations—My moadim.** TLM

We might have fond memories of our childhood Christmas celebration, and some memories maybe not too fond as well. My memories were mixed with good and bad because our home was always in turmoil. Later in life when I was on my own I would celebrate as well, but a deep depression would set in and I felt no joy, even as a believer because something didn't feel right. All the celebration had little or nothing to do with Yeshua our Redeemer. One day as I was looking at our tree, over 20 years ago, I thought what does this have to do with anything in the Bible and Yeshua? It was at that point that I stopped decorating and celebrating a false tradition and turned back to my Jewish roots.

Should we rejoice at the birth of our Messiah? Absolutely yes, but not with a day that has its roots in paganism and fairy tales, i.e. Santa Clause (the false savior who gives gifts to good children and coal to bad children) and his elves etc. etc. When you celebrate some one's birth, do you celebrate it any day you feel like or do you celebrate it on the actual day they were born? Answer: on the day they were born.

Yeshua was not born on December 25<sup>th</sup>, but during the Feast of Sukkot, so if we are going to be celebrating the birth of our Redeemer and Savior, let's do it at the right time.

Do I look down at Christians who celebrate Christmas? No because they don't know the truth behind it and are caught up in the traditions of men, like many of us were. **However, you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.** Many believers are realizing that they have inherited lies and are returning back to a Biblical lifestyle and Biblical Celebrations. We must proclaim the truth in love, remembering that we also had to return to His truth.

**Jer 16:19** Adonai, my strength, my stronghold, my refuge in the day of affliction, to You will the nations come from the ends of the earth and say: "**Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies, futility and useless things.**"

Jer 16:20 Will man make gods for himself? Yet they are not gods.

Jer 16:21 So I will surely make them know—this time I make them know My hand and My might—they will know that My Name is Adonai." TLV

The background of Christmas and its traditions, we will look at 3 main fixtures of the Christmas celebration:

## Pagan Origins of Christmas <sup>1</sup>

### Let's explore the origins of Christmas and the enemies perversion of truth:

The Babylonians, Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans all celebrated a pagan festival at the time of the winter solstice (the "Brumalia" of the Romans, and "Saturnalia" of the Greeks on December 25th), with their traditional trees, commemorating Nimrod's "resurrection". Yule logs, orbs and bulbs symbolizing eggs, and sexual reproduction, and especially the mistletoe, which was an important feature of Druidism.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica; Christmas was first established as a feast in the fourth century. In the fifth century the western church ordered it to be celebrated forever on the day of the old Roman feast of the birth of Sol. Among the German and Celtic tribes, the winter solstice was considered an important point of the year, and they held their chief festival of Yule to commemorate the return of the burning wheel. The holly, the mistletoe, the yule log and the wassail bowl are relics of a pre-Christian era.

The Christmas tree, now so common among us, was equally common in Pagan Rome and Pagan Egypt. In Egypt that tree was a palm tree; in Rome it was the fir tree; the palm tree denoting the Pagan Messiah, as Baal-Tamar, the fir referring to him as Ball-Berith. The mother of Adonis, the Sun-God and great mediatorial divinity, was mystically said to have been changed into a tree, and when in that state to have brought forth her divine son.<sup>2</sup> If the mother was a tree, the son must have been recognized as the "Man of the Branch". And this entirely accounts for the putting of the Yule Log into the fire on Christmas eve, and the appearance of the Christmas tree the next morning.<sup>3</sup>

### The Christmas tree can also be found in scripture:

*Yirimiyah (Jeremiah) 10:3-5 For the customs of the peoples are worthless; they cut a tree out of the forest, and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel. They adorn it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so it will not totter. Like a scarecrow in a melon patch, their idols cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot walk. Do not fear them; they can do no harm nor can they do any good."*

The 25th of December, the day that was observed at Rome as the day when the victorious god, Baal-Berith, reappeared on earth, was held at the *Natalis invictisolis*, "The birthday of the unconquered Sun." Now the Yule Log is the dead stock of Nimrod, deified as the sun-god, but cut down by his enemies; the Christmas tree is Nimrod *redivivus* - the slain god come to life again.

The mistletoe bough, in Druidic superstition, was derived from Babylon, and was a representation of their false god, "The man the branch". The mistletoe was regarded as a divine branch - a branch that came down from heaven, and grew upon a tree that sprang out of the earth. Thus by the engrafting of the celestial branch into the earthly tree, heaven and earth, that sin had severed, were joined together, and

---

<sup>1</sup> resource written by Greg Killian, The Watchman

thus the mistletoe bough became the token of divine reconciliation to man, the kiss being the well-known token of pardon and reconciliation.

**You can see how the enemy has taken truth from scriptures and perverted it and twisted it, so that he would be worshiped and be the savior (anti-messiah) to his followers and throw doubt on the truth of scripture regarding the true Messiah, Yeshua. The enemy is nothing but a counterfeiter and there is no truth in him. He has turned the truth of the birth of Messiah Yeshua, into pagan mythology. It is the same thing Islam does, makes Ishmael the promised son instead of Isaac etc. etc. Just as in the end of days the enemy will arise as the Anti-Messiah and False Prophet complete with signs and wonders to fool the earth into thinking he is the savior of the world. He has made his own feasts and festivals as a counterfeit of the true feasts and festivals of Yahweh Elohim.**

**The Truth is .....**

- **Yahweh's feasts are the only true feasts and point to Messiah and our Redemption**
- **Yeshua is Yahweh's only begotten Son, born of a virgin as scripture states**
- **Yeshua is the only Redeemer and Savior to the world through his death and resurrection**
- **Yeshua is the only true branch**
- **Yeshua is the ONLY true Messiah**
- **Yeshua is the only reconciliation between God and Man**

**More Background on Christmas from other sources:**

"Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the church ... the first evidence of the feast is from Egypt." (*Catholic encyclopaedia 1911 edition*)

"There is no authoritative tradition as to the day or month of Christ's birth ... The winter solstice was regarded as the birthday of the sun and at Rome a pagan festival of the nativity of "**sol invictus**" was introduced by the Emperor Aurelian on the 25th December 274. **The church unable to stamp out this popular festival, spiritualized it as the Feast of the Nativity of the Sun of Righteousness.** When Christianity spread northwards, it encountered a similar pagan festival also held at the winter solstice - the great Yule feast of the Norsemen. Once again Christians absorbed heathen customs. From the various sources came the Yule Log, the Christmas tree introduced into England from Germany and first mentioned in 1978." (*Chambers encyclopaedia 1970 edition page 530*)

How then did the Romanish church fix on December 25th as Christmas day? Why thus:

"Long before the fourth century and long before the Christian era itself, a festival was celebrated among the heathen at the precise time of the year in honour of the **Son of Babylonian Queen of Heaven:** and it may fairly be assumed that in order to conciliate the heathen, and to swell the number of the nominal adherents of Christianity, the same festival was adopted by the **Roman Church** giving it only the name of Christ. This tendency on part of the Christians to meet Paganism half-way was very early adopted ... upright men strove to stem the tide, but in spite of all their efforts the apostasy went on, 'till the church, with the exemption of a small remnant, was submerged under Pagan superstition.

**That Christmas was originally a pagan festival is beyond all doubt.** The time of the year and the ceremonies with which it is still celebrated proves its origin. In Egypt the **Son of Isis, the Egyptian title**

for the Queen of Heaven, was born at this very time, about the time of the winter solstice." (*The Two Babylons by Alexander Hyslop, pages 92 and 93*)

## The Christmas Tree<sup>4</sup>

### Pagan Origins

Dating back **centuries before Christ**, cultures brought evergreen trees, plants, and leaves into their homes upon the arrival of the winter solstice, which occurs in the northern hemisphere between December 21st and 22nd. Although the specific practices were different in each country and culture, the symbolization was generally the same: to celebrate the return of life at the beginning of winter's decline.

 Egyptians particularly valued evergreens as a symbol of life's victory over death. They brought green date palm leaves into their homes around the time of the **winter solstice**.

 Romans had a public festival called Saturnalia, which lasted one week beginning on December 17th, and included a variety of celebrations around the winter solstice. Curiously, the Roman winter solstice was **marked on December 25th** on the Julian calendar. These celebrations are thought to have merged with pagan practices of hanging mistletoe and the burning of the Yule log.



 In Britain, the Yule log was originally seen as a magical amulet, and eventually made it into the hands of **Father Christmas**. In Italy the Yule log is still burned for the "Festa di Ceppo". In Catalonia, the log is wrapped in a blanket until Christmas Eve, when it's unwrapped and burned for the custom of "fer cagar el tio". And in Serbia, families bring the Yule log (known as a "badnjak") into their homes on Christmas Eve to be burned along with **prayers to God to bring happiness, luck, and riches**.

 Druid priests in Great Britain also used evergreen plants and mistletoe in pagan ceremonies, and  the mistletoe plant was the symbol of **the birth of a god**. Celtic Druids and Norseman of Scandinavia also used mistletoe in a mysterious ceremony just after the winter solstice.

 In the mid 1500's, **Germans began using evergreen trees** as a symbol of hope for the coming of spring. This practice is likely to have gradually evolved from pagan rituals of past, and merged with the celebration of Christmas leading to the tree's **Christian beginnings**.

## Mistletoe<sup>5</sup>

### History and Folklore

Mistletoe has always been considered a magical, good luck plant. Lovers who kiss beneath it will have lasting happiness and carrying a sprig on your person will ensure good luck, protection and fertility.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.christmastreehistory.net/pagan>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.witchipedia.com/herb:mistletoe>

Hanging it in the home was supposed to protect it from disease, lightning, werewolves and having your children switched with faerie changelings.

In England and Wales, farmers gave a bunch of mistletoe to the first cow that calved to ensure the health and production of the whole herd for the year.

In Scandinavia, mistletoe was a symbol of peace under which warring parties swore truce.

According to lore, Druids held mistletoe in high esteem and collected it only when they received a vision ordering them to do so, and then with great ceremony.

Since the seeds are spread through bird droppings, our observant forbearers named Mistletoe "dung-on-twig", (the word literally translated is a conjugation of "birdlime" or "bird dung" and twig) believing that the plant actually sprang from the dung itself. Other beliefs held the Mistletoe grew where a tree was struck by lightning.

According to Pliny the Elder, a first century Roman Historian, described a ritual gathering of mistletoe by Gaulish Druids in his Natural History XVI as follows:

The druids – that is what they call their magicians – hold nothing more sacred than the mistletoe and a tree on which it is growing, provided it is Valonia Oak.... Mistletoe is rare and when found it is gathered with great ceremony, and particularly on the sixth day of the moon.... Hailing the moon in a native word that means 'healing all things,' they prepare a ritual sacrifice and banquet beneath a tree and bring up two white bulls, whose horns are bound for the first time on this occasion. A priest arrayed in white vestments climbs the tree and, with a golden sickle, cuts down the mistletoe, which is caught in a white cloak. Then finally they kill the victims, praying to a god to render his gift propitious to those on whom he has bestowed it. They believe that mistletoe given in drink will impart fertility to any animal that is barren and that it is an antidote to all poisons

## **Santa Claus and His Reindeer and presents**

### **Odin and His Mighty Horse**

Among early Germanic tribes, one of the major deities was Odin, the ruler of Asgard. A number of similarities exist between some of Odin's escapades and those of the figure who would become Santa Claus. Odin was often depicted as leading a hunting party through the skies, during which he rode his eight-legged horse, Sleipnir.

In the 13th-century Poetic Edda, Sleipnir is described as being able to leap great distances, which some scholars have compared to the legends of Santa's reindeer. Odin was typically portrayed as an old man with a long, white beard — much like St. Nicholas himself.

### **Treats for the Tots**

During the winter, children placed their boots near the chimney, filling them with carrots or straw as a gift for Sleipnir. When Odin flew by, he rewarded the little ones by leaving gifts in their boots. In several Germanic countries, this practice survived despite the adoption of Christianity. As a result, the gift-giving became associated with St. Nicholas — only nowadays, people hang stockings rather than leaving boots by the chimney!

**Some Christian leaders will try to justify these practices by saying “Yes it was pagan, but we made it holy!”**

**What does the word say? Do not mix the holy with the profane!**

**Jer 10:1** Hear the word that Adonai speaks to you, house of Israel,

**Jer 10:2 Thus says Adonai: “Do not learn the way of the nations or be frightened by signs of the heavens—though the nations are terrified by them.**

Jer 10:3 The customs of the peoples are useless: it is just a tree cut from the forest, the work of the hands of a craftsman with a chisel.

Jer 10:4 They decorate it with silver and gold, and fasten it with hammer and nails so it won't totter.

Jer 10:5 Like a scarecrow in a cucumber garden, their idols cannot speak. They must be carried because they cannot walk! Do not fear them for they can do no harm—nor do any good.”

Jer 10:6 There is none like You, Adonai! You are great and great is Your Name in power.

Jer 10:7 Who should not fear You, Ruler of the nations? For it is your due! For among all the wise of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is none like You.

Jer 10:8 They are totally stupid and foolish. Discipline is useless—it's wood!

Jer 10:9 Beaten silver is brought from Tarshish and gold from Uphaz. The work of the craftsman and of the goldsmith's hands is clothed in blue and purple—all the work of skillful men.

**Jer 10:10 But Adonai Elohim is truth. He is the living God and eternal King. At His wrath the earth quakes and the nations cannot endure His indignation.**

Jer 10:11 Thus you will say to them: **“The gods—which did not make the heavens and the earth—will perish from the earth and from under the heavens.”**

Jer 10:12 He made the earth by His power, established the world by His wisdom, and stretched out heaven by His understanding.

Eze 22:26 Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: **they have put no difference between the holy and profane**, neither have they shewed *difference* between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.

Eze 44:23 And they shall teach my people ***the difference between the holy and profane***, and **cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.**

## When was Yeshua born?<sup>6</sup>

### Birth of Yeshua during Succoth:

#### Our starting point is:

**(Luke) 1:5** *In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron.*

**From this we learn that Yochanan (John) the Baptist's father was part of the Levitical priesthood group known as Abijah.**

#### Next we learn *when* Abijah served during the biblical year:

***I Divrei HaYamim (Chronicles) 24:1*** *These were the divisions of the sons of Aaron: The sons of Aaron were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. But Nadab and Abihu died before their father did, and they had no sons; so Eleazar and Ithamar served as the priests. With the help of Zadok a descendant of Eleazar and Ahimelech a descendant of Ithamar, David separated them into divisions for their appointed order of ministering. A larger number of leaders were found among Eleazar's descendants than among Ithamar's, and they were divided accordingly: sixteen heads of families from Eleazar's descendants and eight heads of families from Ithamar's descendants. They divided them impartially by drawing lots, for there were officials of the sanctuary and officials of God among the descendants of both Eleazar and Ithamar. The scribe Shemaiah son of Nethanel, a Levite, recorded their names in the presence of the king and of the officials: Zadok the priest, Ahimelech son of Abiathar and the heads of families of the priests and of the Levites--one family being taken from Eleazar and then one from Ithamar. The first lot fell to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah, The third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim, The fifth to Malkijah, the sixth to Mijamin, The seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah, The ninth to Jeshua, the tenth to Shecaniah, The eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim, The thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab, The fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer, The seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Happizzez, The nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezkel, The twenty-first to Jakin, the twenty-second to Gamul, The twenty-third to Delaiah and the twenty-fourth to Maaziah. This was their appointed order of ministering when they entered the temple of HaShem, according to the regulations prescribed for them by their forefather Aaron, as HaShem, the God of Israel, had commanded him. As for the rest of the descendants of Levi: from the sons of Amram: Shubael; from the sons of Shubael: Jehdeiah. As for Rehabiah, from his sons: Isshiah was the first. From the Izharites: Shelomoth; from the sons of Shelomoth: Jahath. The sons of Hebron: Jeriah the first, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third and Jekameam the fourth. The son of Uzziel: Micah; from the sons of Micah: Shamir. The brother of Micah: Isshiah; from the sons of Isshiah: Zechariah. The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. The son of Jaaziah: Beno. The sons of Merari: from Jaaziah: Beno, Shoham, Zaccur and Ibri. From Mahli: Eleazar, who had no sons. From Kish: the son of Kish: Jerahmeel. And the sons of Mushi:*

---

## 6

Hag HaSuccoth - (Feast of Tabernacles) By Greg Killian

*Mahli, Eder and Jerimoth. These were the Levites, according to their families. They also cast lots, just as their brothers the descendants of Aaron did, in the presence of King David and of Zadok, Ahimelech, and the heads of families of the priests and of the Levites. The families of the oldest brother were treated the same as those of the youngest.*

**There were 24 courses. Abijah was the eighth course.**

**Three times a year all 24 courses had to serve:**

***Devarim (Deuteronomy) 16:16*** *Three times a year all your men must appear before HaShem your God at the place he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles.* *No man should appear before HaShem empty-handed:*

**The following verse indicates that the length of service for each course was seven days:**

***I Divrei HaYamim (Chronicles) 9:1*** *All Israel was listed in the genealogies recorded in the book of the kings of Israel. The people of Judah were taken captive to Babylon because of their unfaithfulness. Now the first to resettle on their own property in their own towns were some Israelites, priests, Levites and temple servants. Those from Judah, from Benjamin, and from Ephraim and Manasseh who lived in Jerusalem were: Uthai son of Ammihud, the son of Omri, the son of Imri, the son of Bani, a descendant of Perez son of Judah. Of the Shilonites: Asaiah the firstborn and his sons. Of the Zerahites: Jeuel. The people from Judah numbered 690. Of the Benjamites: Sallu son of Meshullam, the son of Hodaviah, the son of Hassenuah; Ibneiah son of Jeroham; Elah son of Uzzi, the son of Micri; and Meshullam son of Shephatiah, the son of Reuel, the son of Ibnijah. The people from Benjamin, as listed in their genealogy, numbered 956. All these men were heads of their families. Of the priests: Jedaiah; Jehoiarib; Jakin; Azariah son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, the official in charge of the house of God; Adaiah son of Jeroham, the son of Pashhur, the son of Malkijah; and Maasai son of Adiel, the son of Jahzerah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Meshillemith, the son of Immer. The priests, who were heads of families, numbered 1,760. They were able men, responsible for ministering in the house of God. Of the Levites: Shemaiah son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, a Merarite; Bakbakkar, Heresh, Galal and Mattaniah son of Mica, the son of Zicri, the son of Asaph; Obadiah son of Shemaiah, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun; and Berekiah son of Asa, the son of Elkanah, who lived in the villages of the Netophathites. The gatekeepers: Shallum, Akkub, Talmon, Ahiman and their brothers, Shallum their chief Being stationed at the King's Gate on the east, up to the present time. These were the gatekeepers belonging to the camp of the Levites. Shallum son of Kore, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah, and his fellow gatekeepers from his family (the Korahites) were responsible for guarding the thresholds of the Tent just as their fathers had been responsible for guarding the entrance to the dwelling of HaShem. In earlier times Phinehas son of Eleazar was in charge of the gatekeepers, and HaShem was with him. Zechariah son of Meshelemiah was the gatekeeper at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. Altogether, those chosen to be gatekeepers at the thresholds numbered 212. They were registered by genealogy in their villages. The gatekeepers had been assigned to their positions of trust by David and Shmuel (Samuel) the seer. They and their descendants were in charge of guarding the gates of the house of HaShem--the house called the Tent. The gatekeepers were on the four sides: east, west, north and south. Their brothers in their villages had to come from time to time and share their duties for seven-day periods. But the four principal gatekeepers, who were Levites, were entrusted with the responsibility for the rooms and treasuries in the house of God.*

## **The week of service began and ended on the Sabbath:**

***II Divrei HaYamim (Chronicles) 23:1-8** In the seventh year Jehoiada showed his strength. He made a covenant with the commanders of units of a hundred: Azariah son of Jeroham, Ishmael son of Jehohanan, Azariah son of Obed, Maaseiah son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat son of Zicri. They went throughout Judah and gathered the Levites and the heads of Israelite families from all the towns. When they came to Jerusalem, The whole assembly made a covenant with the king at the temple of God. Jehoiada said to them, "The king's son shall reign, as HaShem promised concerning the descendants of David. Now this is what you are to do: A third of you priests and Levites who are going on duty on the Sabbath are to keep watch at the doors, A third of you at the royal palace and a third at the Foundation Gate, and all the other men are to be in the courtyards of the temple of HaShem. No one is to enter the temple of HaShem except the priests and Levites on duty; they may enter because they are consecrated, but all the other men are to guard what HaShem has assigned to them. The Levites are to station themselves around the king, each man with his weapons in his hand. Anyone who enters the temple must be put to death. Stay close to the king wherever he goes." The Levites and all the men of Judah did just as Jehoiada the priest ordered. Each one took his men--those who were going on duty on the Sabbath and those who were going off duty--for Jehoiada the priest had not released any of the divisions.*

## **So, the week of service began and ended on the Sabbath. Now we need to do some arithmetic:**

24 courses times 1 week equals 24 weeks that have been served by each course. Then we add the three weeks when all 24 courses served. We now have covered 27 weeks. A biblical year of twelve lunar months totals 354 days. This is eleven days less than a solar year. This means that we have to cover 24 more weeks. Thus we can deduce that each course served a week at the beginning of the year, and a week at the end of the year.

(The number of days that differ from a lunar and a solar calendar, are made up by adding a leap month every two or three years. I do not yet know how the priests served these extra days.)

Each course, therefore, served for one week twice a year, and three times a year they all served (Each course, therefore, served a total of five weeks during the year). The eighth course would therefore serve during the tenth week having allowed for the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Weeks, which both occur during the first weeks of the year.

## **Elizabeth conceived Yochanan (John) the Baptist AFTER Zechariah had finished his Temple service:**

***(Luke) 1:23** When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion.*

Plus forty weeks, for a normal pregnancy, reveals that Yochanan (John) the Baptist was born on Passover. This is interesting because one of the rituals of the Passover is to open the door to welcome Elijah...and Messiah said that Yochanan (John) was the Elijah who was to come! Exactly six months after Yochanan (John)'s conception, Mary conceives Jesus:

**(Luke) 1:23-33** When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people." In (Elizabeth's) sixth month (of pregnancy), God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, To a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, And he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

**If Yochanan (John) the Baptist was conceived in the eleventh week, Yeshua (Jesus) would have been conceived six months later in the month of Kislev. Kislev 25 is Chanukah.**

**It is noteworthy that our Messiah, the "light of the world", was conceived on the festival of lights (Chanukah)!**

So, six months after Yochanan (John) the Baptist is born, Yeshua is born. Therefore, since Yochanan (John) was born on the 15th day of the first month (Nisan), Yeshua (Jesus) would be born on the 15th day of the seventh month...six month later. The 15th day of the seventh month is known as Succoth, or the Feast of Tabernacles.

**Yeshua (Jesus) was born on Succoth (The Feast of Tabernacles)!**

**We find an allusion to Yeshua's birth during Succoth in Yochanan (John)'s Gospel:**

**Yochanan (John) 1:14** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling (succah) among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Remember that a major theme of Succoth is JOY! With this in mind ...**

**(Luke) 2:4-11** So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

**And ...**

**Matityahu (Matthew) 2:7-12** Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed

*down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Chanukah – A Celebration of not mixing the holy with the profane**

### **The Profane - Abomination of Desolation<sup>7</sup>**

*And forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation. (Daniel 11:31)*

Not long after that, Antiochus issued orders that all nations under his power were to immediately relinquish their various religions and cultures and embrace Greek culture and faith. This was especially problematic for the Torah-based culture and religion of Judea. In fact, the edicts were specifically aimed at the Jews.

The daily sacrifices were discontinued. The Jerusalem Temple was converted into a Temple to Zeus. On the 15th day of *Kislev* an image of Zeus was erected in the Temple (the Abomination of Desolation). Ten days later, they began to sacrifice swine to the idol upon the altar of Lord .

Antiochus also issued orders forbidding circumcision, Sabbath observance, kosher diets, and the study of Torah. The text of Maccabees records that those who attempted to live out the Torah paid with their lives.

*On the fifteenth day of the month Kislev, in the year one hundred and forty-five [168 BCE], the king erected the horrible abomination upon the altar of holocausts, and in the surrounding cities of Judah they built pagan altars. They also burnt incense at the doors of houses and in the streets .Any Torah scrolls which they found they tore up and burnt. Whoever was found with a scroll of the covenant, and whoever observed the Torah was condemned to death by royal decree. So they used their power against Israel, against those who were caught, each month, in the cities. On the twenty-fifth day of each month they sacrificed on the altar erected over the altar of holocausts. Women who had their children circumcised were put to death, in keeping with the decree, with the babies hung from their necks; their families also and those who had circumcised them were killed.*

**...they preferred to die  
rather than to be defiled  
with unclean food or to  
profane the holy covenant;  
and they did die.**

*But many in Israel were determined and resolved in their hearts not to eat anything unclean; they preferred to die rather than to be defiled with unclean food or to profane the holy covenant; and they did die. Terrible affliction was upon Israel. (1 Maccabees 1:54–64) the best known of all these stories is the story of old Mattityahu the priest and his sons.*

---

<sup>7</sup> "From The Light In The Darkness" FFOZ

## **Those Zealous for the Torah**

*But the people who know their God will display strength and take action.  
(Daniel 11:32)*

Many Jews chose to comply with the new laws. They forsook Torah to save their lives. Others stood fast to the covenant, and paid for their convictions dearly. There are several famous stories in Jewish lore about brave men and women who resisted tyranny during the Hanukkah persecutions. There is the story of old Eliezer who chose to die rather than eat pork—or even pretend to eat pork (2 Maccabees 6:18-31). There is the story of Hannah and her seven sons, each of whom was martyred before her eyes for their refusal to forsake the commandments of Torah (2 Maccabees 7).

**“...but we are fighting for  
our lives and our Torah  
laws. [God] will crush  
them before us; so do not  
be afraid of them.”<sup>8</sup>**

Given that Hanukkah is a historically Jewish festival and that its celebration is not a *mitzvah* (commandment) of the Torah, why would believers in Yeshua celebrate it? Obviously Jewish believers may have a cultural affinity for the festival, but is there any real biblical significance? Is there any reason non-Jews might want to incorporate the celebration of Hanukkah into their homes? There is a reason, and it's not just cultural. Yeshua kept Hanukkah.

We will show the biblical basis for Hanukkah as prophesied in the book of Daniel, and it will explore the reason why Yeshua found the festival important enough to merit a special trip to the Temple.

## **The Master keeps the Feast of Hanukkah**

*At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; it was winter, and Yeshua was walking in the Temple in the portico of Solomon.  
(John 10:22–23)*

In the tenth chapter of the book of John, we find Yeshua at the Temple in Jerusalem during the festival of Hanukkah. This requires some investigation. We would not expect to find Him in Jerusalem at that time of year. Usually He is stumping around the Galilee with His disciples. Ordinarily He is only in Jerusalem for the three pilgrimage festivals of *Pesach*, *Shavuot*, and *Sukkot*. It is a surprise to see Him in Jerusalem at Hanukkah. Hanukkah (חנוכה) means “dedication.” The festival of Hanukkah is a commemoration of the great Maccabee revolution, which overthrew the forces of Hellenism and resulted in the rededication of the Temple. We know very little about how Hanukkah was celebrated in the days of the Master, but there is every reason to believe it was a Temple-centered celebration. After all, the “Feast of Dedication” was the anniversary of the rededication of the Temple.

---

<sup>8</sup> Please read “The Light In The Darkness” for the full details of Hanukah by FFOZ

John tells us that it was Hanukkah, and Yeshua was walking through Solomon's Colonnade, a portico along the Eastern wall of the Temple courts. Edersheim describes that colonnade as follows:

*It was the eastern colonnade, which abutted against the Mount of Olives and faced "the Beautiful Gate," that formed the principal entrance in the Sanctuary. For, all along the inside of the great wall which formed the Temple-enclosure ran a double colonnade—each column a monolith of white marble 25 cubits high, covered with cedar-beams... We infer that the eastern was "Solomon's Porch," from the circumstance that it was the only relic left of Solomon's Temple.<sup>1</sup>*

It was into this colonnade that the Eastern Gate of the Temple opened. According to long standing legend, Messiah would one day enter the Temple, and Jerusalem, through the Eastern Gate. Zechariah 14:4 and Ezekiel 43 figure prominently in this imagery. Therein the Messiah and the Glory of Lord respectively are portrayed as coming from the Mount of Olives. They come to restore Jerusalem and rededicate (*hanukkah*) the Temple. It was probably through this Eastern Gate that Yeshua entered on the day of His triumphal entry. No doubt the Messianic association with the Eastern Gate is why the early believers congregated in Solomon's colonnade.<sup>2</sup> They wanted to be ready to greet Him at His return. Thus, the portico was the birthplace of the Assembly of Messiah. Can you picture it? Try to imagine Yeshua walking the very stones on which the believers throughout the book of Acts would assemble, worship, and pray. He was walking in the Temple, in the very place where they, the living Temple, would soon be proclaiming His name and demonstrating His power. And it was the festival of Hanukkah.

**We are seeing a last days "Revival" of returning to a Torah pursuant lifestyle that Yeshua followed and taught. Worldwide Christians are fleeing Babylonian practices and returning to true Biblical obedience to God's Torah (teaching and instructions) and His Feasts!**

**Act 3:21** Heaven must receive Him, until the time of the restoration of all the things that God spoke about long ago through the mouth of His holy prophets.

**The enemy is a counterfeiter, he wants worship for himself and has deceived people into thinking that they can mix the holy with the profane and pass it off as genuine worship of Elohim. When in truth it is trying to mix darkness with light, which is an abomination to our Father. We are to be Lights in the Darkness!**



## **Yeshua Is the Light Of The World, and we are to reflect His Light in our lives to the WORLD!**

Mat 4:16 the people sitting in darkness have seen a great **light**, and those sitting in the region and shadow of death, on them a **light** has dawned.”

Mat 5:14 You are the **light** of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Mat 5:15 Neither do people **light** a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on a lampstand so it gives **light** to all in the house.

Mat 5:16 In the same way, let your **light** shine before men so they may see your good works and glorify your Father in

heaven.”

Mat 6:22 “The eye is the lamp of the body. Therefore if your eye is good, your whole body will be full of **light**.

Mat 6:23 But if your eye is bad, your body will be full of darkness. If therefore the **light** that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

Mat 10:27 What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the **light**; and what you hear in your ear, proclaim from the housetops!

Joh 3:20 For everyone who does evil hates the **light** and does not come to the **light**, so that their deeds will not be exposed.

Joh 3:21 But whoever practices the truth comes to the **light**, so that it may be made known that his deeds have been accomplished in God.”

Joh 5:35 He was the lamp that was burning and shining, and you wanted to rejoice for a while in his **light**.

Joh 8:12 Yeshua spoke to them again, saying, “I am the **light** of the world. The one who follows Me will no longer walk in darkness, but will have the **light** of life.”

Joh 9:3 Yeshua answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned. This happened so that the works of God might be brought to **light** in him.

Joh 9:5 While I am in the world, I am the **light** of the world.”

Joh 11:9 Yeshua answered, “Aren’t there twelve hours in the day? If a man walks in the day, he doesn’t stumble, because he sees the **light** of the world.

Joh 11:10 But if a man should walk around at night, he stumbles, because the **light** is not in him.”

Joh 12:35 Therefore Yeshua said to them, “The **light** is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the **light**, so that the darkness will not overtake you. The one who walks in darkness doesn’t know where he is going.

Joh 12:36 While you have the **light**, believe in the **light** so that you may become sons of **light**.” Yeshua spoke these things, then left and hid Himself from them.

Joh 12:46 As **light** I have come into the world, so that everyone who trusts in Me should not remain in darkness.

Eph 3:9 and to bring to **light** the plan of the mystery—which for ages was hidden in God, who created all things.

Eph 5:8 For once you were darkness, but now in union with the Lord you are **light**. Walk as children of **light**

Eph 5:9 (for the fruit of **light** is in all goodness and righteousness and truth),

Eph 5:13 Yet everything exposed by the **light** is being made visible,

Eph 5:14 for everything made visible is **light**. This is why it says, “Wake up, O sleeper! Rise from the dead, and Messiah will shine on you.”

Col 1:12 we give thanks to the Father, who qualified you to share in the inheritance of the kedoshim in the **light**.

1Th 5:5 For you all are sons of **light** and sons of day. We are not of night or of darkness—

1Ti 6:16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable **light**, whom no man has seen or is able to see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

2Ti 1:10 but now has been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Messiah Yeshua. Indeed, He nullified the power of death and brought life and immortality to **light** through the Good News.

1Pe 1:7 These trials are so that the true metal of your faith (far more valuable than gold, which perishes though refined by fire) may come to **light** in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Messiah Yeshua.

1Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into His marvelous **light**.

1Jn 1:5 Now this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you—that God is **light** and in Him there is no darkness at all.

1Jn 1:7 But if we walk in the **light** as He Himself is in the **light**, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of His Son Yeshua purifies us from all sin.

1Jn 2:8 Yet I am writing a new commandment for you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is fading and the true **light** is already shining.

1Jn 2:9 The one who says he is in the **light** and hates his brother is still in the darkness.

1Jn 2:10 The one who loves his brother abides in the **light**, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.

Rev 18:23 And the **light** of a lamp shall never shine in you again! And the voice of the bridegroom and bride shall never be heard in you again! For your businessmen were the tycoons of the world, for all the nations were deceived by your sorcery!

## **GOD HAS CALLED US OUT OF BABYLON TO RETURN TO HIS WAYS IN MESSIAH YESHUA**

**Isa 48:20** “Get out of Babylon, flee from Chaldea! With a shout of joy, proclaim this, send it out to the end of the earth, say: ‘Adonai has redeemed His servant Jacob!’

**Isa 52:11** Leave, leave! Get out of there! Touch no unclean thing. Go out of her midst. Purify yourselves, you who carry the vessels of Adonai.

**Jer 51:6** Flee from within Babylon! Each one, escape with his soul! Be not silenced in her iniquity! For it is a time of vengeance for Adonai. He will repay her recompense.

Jer 51:7 Babylon has been a golden cup in Adonai’s hand, intoxicating the whole earth. The nations drunk her wine—so the nations are going crazy.

Jer 51:8 Suddenly Babylon is fallen! Shattered! Howl over her! Bring balm for her wound. Perhaps she may be healed?

Jer 51:9 We would have healed Babylon, but she cannot be healed. Abandon her! Let’s go, each one to his own country, for her judgment has reached up to the heavens and has risen beyond the skies.

Jer 51:10 Adonai has brought forth our vindication! Come, let us declare in Zion the work of Adonai Eloheinu!

## **YESHUA'S ENDTIME WARNING**

**Mat 24:15** "So when you see 'the abomination of desolation,' which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the Holy Place (let the reader understand),

Mat 24:16 then those in Judea must flee to the mountains.

Mat 24:17 The one on the roof must not go down to take what is in his house,

Mat 24:18 and the one in the field must not turn back to get his coat.

Mat 24:19 Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

Mat 24:20 Pray that your escape will not happen in winter, or on Shabbat.

Mat 24:21 For then there will be great trouble, such as has not happened since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.

Mat 24:22 And unless those days were cut short, no one would be delivered. But for the sake of the chosen, those days will be cut short.

Mat 24:23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here's the Messiah,' or 'There He is,' do not believe it.

Mat 24:24 For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and show great signs and wonders so as to lead astray, if possible, even the chosen.

Mat 24:25 See, I have told you beforehand.

Mat 24:26 "So if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out. Or, 'Look, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it.

**Mat 24:27 For just as lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so also will be the coming of the Son of Man.**

**Rev 18:4** Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, "**Come out of her, my people, lest you participate in her sins and receive her plagues!**"

**So, we rejoice at our Messiah's birth (during Sukkot) and His Life and His Redemption (Passover) and his Return (Fall Feasts) by celebrating it the way YHWH told us to celebrate, according to His Calendar and His Ways. We will not mix the holy with the profane and make a mockery out of Truth.**