

A Dedicated Christmas

John 10:22-30

John 10:22-30 NKJV

22 Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter.

23 And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch.

John 10:22-30 NKJV

24 Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."

John 10:22-30 NKJV

25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me.

26 "But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.

John 10:22-30 NKJV

27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

John 10:22-30 NKJV

29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

30 "I and My Father are one."

Genesis 1 ESV

3) And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

4) And God saw that the light was good.
And God separated the light from the darkness.

Gen. 1:2-5

Light = ideas of salvation, joy,
knowledge, righteousness, and life

Psalms 27:1; 119:105, 130; Mat. 4:16;
5:16; John 1:5; 8:12; 9:5; 2 Cor. 4:6;
Eph. 5:8; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 John 1:5-7...

John 1:4 NKJV - In Him was life, and the life was the **light** of men.

John 1:9 NKJV - That was the true **Light** which gives **light** to every man coming into the world.

John 3:19 ESV - And this is the judgment: the **light** has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the **light** because their works were evil.

John 8:12 NKJV - ... "I am the **light** of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the **light** of life."

John 12:46 NKJV - "I have come as a **light** into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

Revelation 21:23 ESV And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it **light**, and its **lamp is the Lamb**.

How it all began: **Hanukkah**

336 to 323 BC - Alexander the Great
conquered the Jews, they could still live
and practice their faith.

168 B.C - Antiochus IV Epiphanes
desecrates the temple, sets up a statue
of Zeus, sacrifices a pig on the altar,
declares himself as God and to be
worshiped....

165 B.C - Mattathias Maccabee and
Sons fought back and started to cleanse
the Temple

Hanukkah

1. Hanukkah means **dedication/**
consecration

Consecration of the Tabernacle (**Num 7:10-11**), the altar of the temple of Solomon (**1 Kgs 8:63; 2 Chr 7:5**), and the altar of the second temple (**Ezra 6:16**)

Hanukkah

2. It is a festival of lights with a new kind of lamp stand
3. The last shall be first

Hanukkah

4. The light visible to those outside

5. The servant candle is the source at the center and lights everything.



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Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world;
he who follows Me will not walk in the
darkness, but will have the Light of life”
(John 8:12)

Matthew 5:14-16 NKJV

14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all [who are] in the house.

Matthew 5:14-16 NKJV

16 "Let your light so shine before men,
that they may see your good works and
glorify your Father in heaven.

Hanukkah Reminds Us

1. **Rededicate:** live for Him, all in. (John 10:36; Luke 9:23-24; Rom. 12; James 4:7-17)
2. **Remember:** God's faithfulness (Isa. 43:13; Jn. 17; 18:9; Eph. 1:4)

Hanukkah Reminds Us

3. **Reflect:** Jesus is the prescribed Light of the World (John 8:12; 1 Peter 3:15) We are called to be His lights (Matt. 5:14–16; John 8:12; 1 Peter 3:15) How are we shining to our community and family?

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-26 (NKJV)

Resources/ bibliography

1. Judas Maccabeus drove out the Syrians, rebuilt the altar, and rededicated the temple on 25 Kislev (1 Maccabees 4:52, 56, 59; and Josephus, Antiquities, 12.7.7)
2. Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown, Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible, vol. 2 (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), 147.
3. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Hanukkah-Christian.html>
4. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Feast-of-Dedication.html>
5. <https://www.gotquestions.org/light-of-the-world.html>
6. <https://bibleproject.com/podcast/seven-festivals/>
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