

1. Jesus attends Hanukkah -

- John 10:22

2. Hanukkah (חַנּוּכָּה) -

- It is derived from the Hebrew verb *Hanak* (חַנַּךְ) – which means to dedicate or inaugurate.<sup>1</sup>
- “Dedications” occur throughout the Hebrew Bible:

Dedication of	Verse
Tabernacle and Altar	Numbers 7 (see v. 88)
Solomon’s Temple	1 Kings 8:63
Second Temple	Ezra 6:15-17
Walls of Jerusalem	Nehemiah 12:27

3. 1 & 2 Maccabees:

- The Hanukkah story is in the historical writings of **1 & 2 Maccabees**.
- **1 & 2 Maccabees** are part of a group of writings called the Apocrypha.

4. The Apocryphal writings:

- The Apocrypha is found in the Catholic Bible. The books were included in Protestant Bibles and were printed as part of the King James Version until 1885.<sup>2</sup>
- The writings cover historical events from the intertestamental period and were written between 250 BCE and 100 BCE.

5. History of the Nation of Israel –

597-586 BCE	Exile to <b>Babylon</b> and the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem
539	<b>Persians</b> defeat the Babylonians.
333	Alexander the Great ( <b>Greeks</b> ) defeats the Persians
	Israel was ruled by either Ptolemy (Egypt) or Seleucids (Antioch)
175-164	Antiochus Epiphanies rules over Seleucid Empire
167-165	Maccabees lead a revolt against the Greeks
165-63	Israel self-governed – many Jews returned to Israel expecting the kingdom to be restored.
63	Rome rules over Israel.
30-33 AD	Jesus’ ministry dealt with the Zealots and their fierce hatred of Roman rule. The people are looking for a leader – anointed by God – to help them overthrow the Roman government and restore the kingdom! (see Acts 1:6)

<sup>1</sup> Victor P. Hamilton, “693 חַנּוּךְ.” ed. R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999), 301.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Apocrypha-Books/>

## 6. Antiochus Epiphanes (175-164) -

- **169 BCE** – takes Jerusalem.
- **167 BCE** – All nations must conform to Greek religions. Judaism was outlawed, with death as the penalty for violation. The Temple in Jerusalem was desecrated.
- **167 BCE** – Mattathias refuses to comply with the demands. He and his sons lead a group of “zealous” followers in revolt.
- **165 BCE** – Led by **Judah Maccabee** (the hammer) – the restoration of the Temple.

## 7. Inspiring the Zealots – 1 Maccabees 2:24-27:

<sup>24</sup>When Mattathias saw it, he burned with **zeal** and his heart was stirred. He gave vent to righteous anger; he ran and killed him on the altar. <sup>25</sup>At the same time he killed the king's officer who was forcing them to sacrifice, and he tore down the altar. <sup>26</sup>Thus he burned with **zeal** for the law, just as Phinehas did against Zimri son of Salu. <sup>27</sup>Then Mattathias cried out in the town with a loud voice, saying: “Let everyone who is **zealous for the law** and supports the covenant come out with me!”

## 8. Replicating the Festival of Tabernacles – 2 Maccabees 10:6-8:

<sup>6</sup>They celebrated it for eight days with rejoicing, in the manner of the festival of booths, remembering how not long before, during the festival of booths, they had been wandering in the mountains and caves like wild animals. <sup>7</sup>Therefore, carrying ivy-wreathed wands and beautiful branches and also fronds of palm, they offered hymns of thanksgiving to him who had given success to the purifying of his own holy place. <sup>8</sup>They decreed by public edict, ratified by vote, that the whole nation of the Jews should observe these days every year.

## 9. The Festival of Lights:

- Hanukkah occurs during the darkest time of the year. In December, the days are at their shortest length and the holiday proceeds as the moon is waning toward a New Moon. The result is the greatest amount of darkness for the world – short day/dark night.
- To celebrate the holiday, the custom is to light the Menorah and place it in a window to increase light into the world.

## 10. Increasing our Light:

- Proverbs 6:23
- Proverbs 20:27
- Titus 2:14