

Sermon: “Jesus Our Chanukah Light”

John 10:22-23

“Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple area walking in Solomon's Colonnade.”

This feast instituted during the time after Malachi but before Matthew.

I. A magnificent regent – Alexander The Great

A. Alexander’s vision: The ‘Hellenization” of the world

B. Alexander’s vacancy filled by his four Generals:
Seleucus (Babylon) Ptolemy (Egypt)

II. A monstrous ruler: The rise of Antiochus IV “Epiphanes”

The forced acceleration of Hellenization and criminalizing of all cultures and religions

168 B.C. the 25th of Kislev “The abomination that causes desolation” (pig sacrifice on the altar in the Temple in Jerusalem)

III. A miraculous revolutionary: Judah Maccabee

The Jewish rebellion under the Macabees (Mattathias the priest; Judah, his son)

**Antiochus defeated; the temple cleansed and re-dedicated.
The miracle of the oil: 165 B.C., the 25th of Kislev!**

IV. The Christ of Chanukah

1. The "menorah" (candle opera)

“Shammus” candle; means “servant”

A. Jesus, the Servant of Jehovah, Isaiah 42:1

B. Jesus, the Light of Life, John 8:12; John 1:9

2. The temple cleansed and re-dedicated, I Cor. 6:19-20

3. The relationship between Chanukah and Christmas