



GOD WITH US!

John 10:22-30

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A. Hanukkah

1. “**Hanukkah**” (ie., ‘dedication’) begins today (November 28—December 6, 2021).
2. “Happy Hanukkah” (חנוכה שמח) spelled phonetically is...
‘Ha(g), hanna, kha-so-meer(m)ilk’.
3. As “El,” in Hebrew means, “God,” “**Ha**” in Hanukkah means “**The Living God**.”
4. In the time of Daniel, **Judah** (Israel) was stuck in between the warring nations of Syria and Egypt.
5. **Antiochus Epiphanes IV**, leading the Syrian forces, was stopped by the Romans who stepped in to defend Egypt.
6. Antiochus, when traveling back through Judah, was so mad that he ordered his generals to **desecrate and destroy Jerusalem**—including the **Temple**.
7. The Syrian generals went even further by ordering the apostate Jewish Rabbis to kill pigs, eat the meat and spread the blood all over the Temple.
8. In the city of **Modi’in** (17m. NW of Jer) they asked the gray haired Rabbi named, **Mattathias** to join in the desecration, but he refused. (An apostate Jewish priest asked him to help.) Mattathias grabbed the soldiers sword, killed him & the apostate, his 4 boys jump in killing the rest, & they and others flee to the Judean mountains. [Read 1st Maccabees in your Catholic Bible for this story.]
9. This faithful band grew, engaging in *guerrilla warfare* against the Syrian army outposts. Mattathias’ son **Judas** took over the campaign. He became known as the **Maccabee** (which means, ‘the hammer.’)

10. Three years to the day from when the Temple was defiled, they were able to rededicate it. They found one small cruse of unpolluted oil (for the lampstand) in an unbroken seal of the high priest. It was only one day’s supply, but miraculously lasted for 8 days, hence the 8 day ‘Feast of Lights’ or ‘**Hanukkah**.’
11. The “**(Re)dedication**” took place on **December 25, 165 BC**.
12. Israelites today place a “**Hanukkah Menorah**” in their homes during this celebration and play games with a **Dreidel**—to commemorate the miracle.

B. Word Study

“Happy Hanukkah” (חנוכה שמח) • *‘Ha(g), hanna, kha-so-meer(m)ilk’*

1. “**Hanukkah**,” (*hanna-kah*, lit. translated means, “The Living God” (x2) and *kha-so-meer(m)ilk* means “With Us!” So, “Happy Hanukkah” means “*The Living God, The Living God is with us—simply put, **The Living God is with Us!***”

“‘The Feast of Dedication,’ which took place on December 25, commemorated the overthrow of the terrible Syrian General, Antiochus Epiphanes IV, by Judas Maccabee and his band of brave guerrillas. To this day, the Jews still celebrate the ‘Feast of Dedication,’ also known as the ‘Feast of Lights,’ or ‘Hanukkah.’” – Dr. Jon Courson’s Commentary on John 10

2. There is one other, very, very important, life-changing insight....

C. John 10:22-30

Jesus—the Good Shepherd—said...

1. Some will reject Me as the Good Shepherd.

²⁶ (NASB) “But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep.”

2. My sheep will hear My voice and come.

²⁷ (NASB) “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;”

3. My Sheep will never perish and are eternally secure.

²⁸ (NASB) “...and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.” ²⁹ “My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”

4. I and the Father are One.

³⁰ (NASB) “I and the Father are one.”

5. ‘God’ is with us!

³⁶ (MSG) “...why do you yell, ‘Blasphemer! Blasphemer!’ at the unique One the Father consecrated and sent into the world, just because I said, ‘I am the Son of God [lit., Emmanuel]’?”

Who is Jesus? “God with us!”
Why did He come? “To save us!”