

A Hanukkah menorah with nine lit white candles is positioned on the left side of the image. The background is dark with a repeating pattern of gold stars. In the bottom left corner, there is a small pile of dried wheat and a blue cloth with a gold star pattern.

*why you might want to observe -*

# Hanukkah

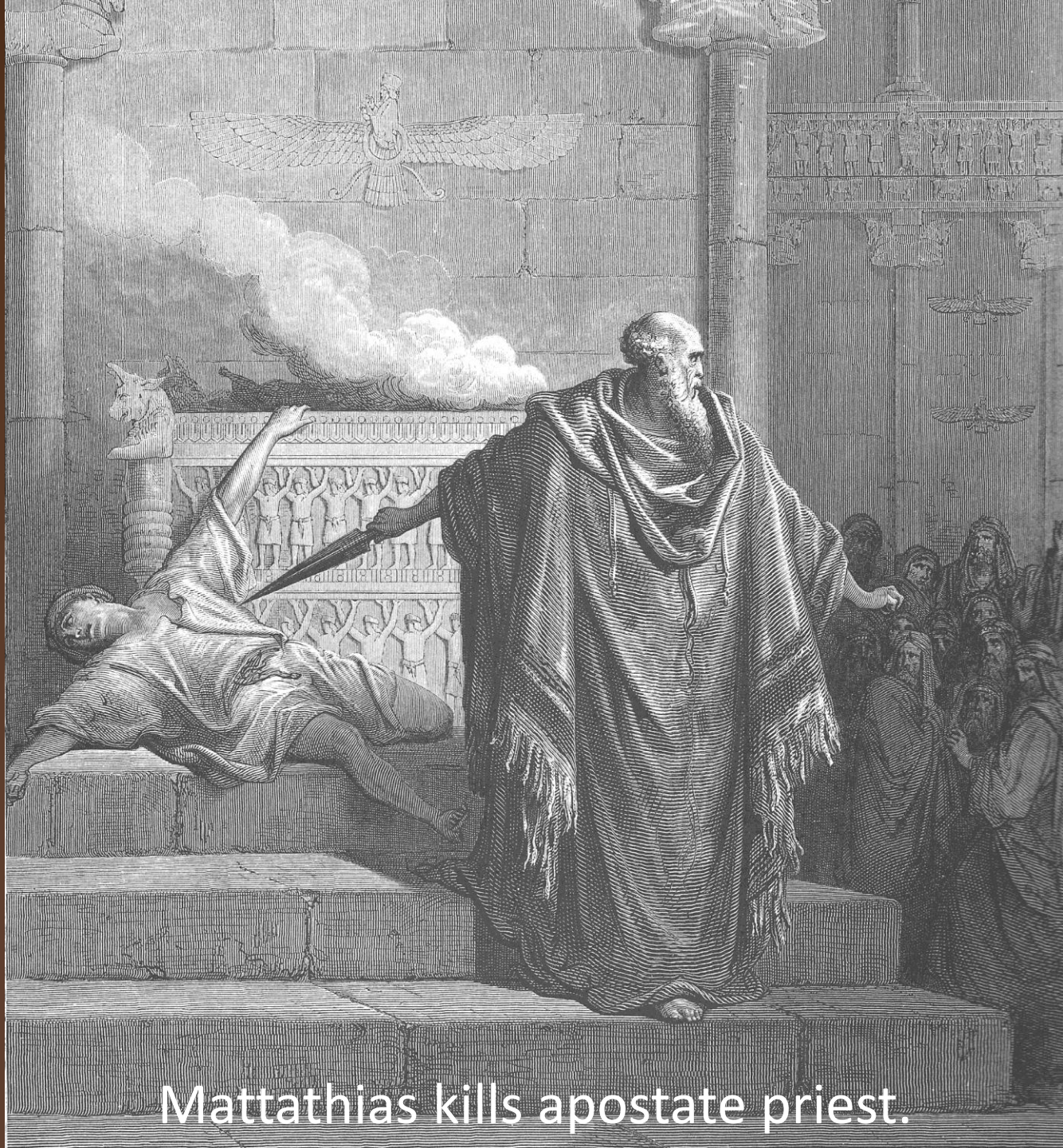


- Is Hanukkah rooted in idolatry?
- Is Hanukkah a Biblical festival?
- Why might we want to observe Hanukkah?





Antiochus IV  
Epiphanies



Mattathias kills apostate priest.





... so that they would forget the law and  
change all the ordinances.

NRS **1 Maccabees 1:49**



# Pagan Origins?



“The word CHUN KAH comes from CHUIN who was a false god in Israel and in Babylon. I Chronicles 18: 8 tells us that this City named CHUN was in Samaria and that it was a Brass-making center. The Root of this word is KUIN for the false god for whom that city was named which is Strong’s Number #3594. This idol symbol was also known as Baal-Peor.”



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חֲנֹכָה





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חַוִּין כָּהַ





<sup>NKJ</sup> **Amos 5:26** - You also carried Sikkuth your king  
And Chiun, your idols, The star of your gods, Which  
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<sup>LXE</sup> **Amos 5:26** - Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of  
Moloch, and the star of your god Raephan, the  
images of them which ye made for yourselves.





‘hanukkah’ ( חֲנֻכָּה – Strong’s 2598)  
“to train, dedicate, inaugurate”



ESV **Numbers 7:10** And the chiefs offered offerings for the dedication of the altar on the day it was anointed; and the chiefs offered their offering before the altar.





‘chanak’ ( חָנַךְ – Strong’s 2596)  
“to train, dedicate, inaugurate”



<sup>NKJ</sup> **Proverbs 22:6** Train (chanak) up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.





# Pagan Practices in Hanukkah?



**ESV Deuteronomy 12:29-31** “When the LORD your God cuts off before you the nations whom you go in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land, <sup>30</sup> take care that you be not ensnared to follow them ... and that you do not inquire about their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods?- that I also may do the same.’ <sup>31</sup> You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way, for every abominable thing that the LORD hates they have done for their gods ...







# Judah Maccabee Pattern Hanukkah after a Pagan Festival





**1 Maccabees 1:44-49** - For the king had sent letters by messengers unto Jerusalem and the cities of Juda that they should follow the strange laws of the land, <sup>45</sup> And forbid burnt offerings, and sacrifice, and drink offerings, in the temple; and that they should profane the sabbaths and festival days, <sup>46</sup> And pollute the sanctuary and holy people, <sup>47</sup> Set up altars, and groves, and chapels of idols, and sacrifice swine's flesh, and unclean beasts.<sup>48</sup> That they should also leave their children uncircumcised, and make their souls abominable with all manner of uncleanness and profanation, <sup>49</sup> To the end they might forget the law, and change all the ordinances.



**1 Maccabees 1:54; 57-59** - Now the fifteenth day of the month Casleu, in the hundred forty and fifth year, they set up the abomination of desolation upon the altar, and builded idol altars throughout the cities of Juda on every side ... <sup>57</sup> And whosoever was found with any the book of the testament, or if any committed to the law, the king's commandment was that they should put him to death. <sup>58</sup> Thus did they by their authority unto the Israelites every month, to as many as were found in the cities. <sup>59</sup> Now the five and twentieth day of the month they did sacrifice upon the idol altar, which was upon the altar of God.



**1 Maccabees 4:52-56** - Now on the five and twentieth day of the ninth month, which is called the month Casleu, in the hundred forty and eighth year, they rose up betimes in the morning, <sup>53</sup> And offered sacrifice according to the law upon the new altar of burnt offerings, which they had made. <sup>54</sup> Look, at what time and what day the heathen had profaned it, even in that was it dedicated with songs, and citherns, and harps, and cymbals. <sup>55</sup> Then all the people fell upon their faces, worshipping and praising the God of heaven, who had given them good success. <sup>56</sup> And so, they kept the dedication of the altar eight days and offered burnt offerings with gladness, and sacrificed the sacrifice of deliverance and praise.





**1 Maccabees 4:58-59** - Thus was there very great gladness among the people, for that the reproach of the heathen was put away. <sup>59</sup>Moreover Judas and his brethren with the whole congregation of Israel ordained, that the days of the dedication of the altar should be kept in their season from year to year by the space of eight days, from the five and twentieth day of the month Casleu, with mirth and gladness.

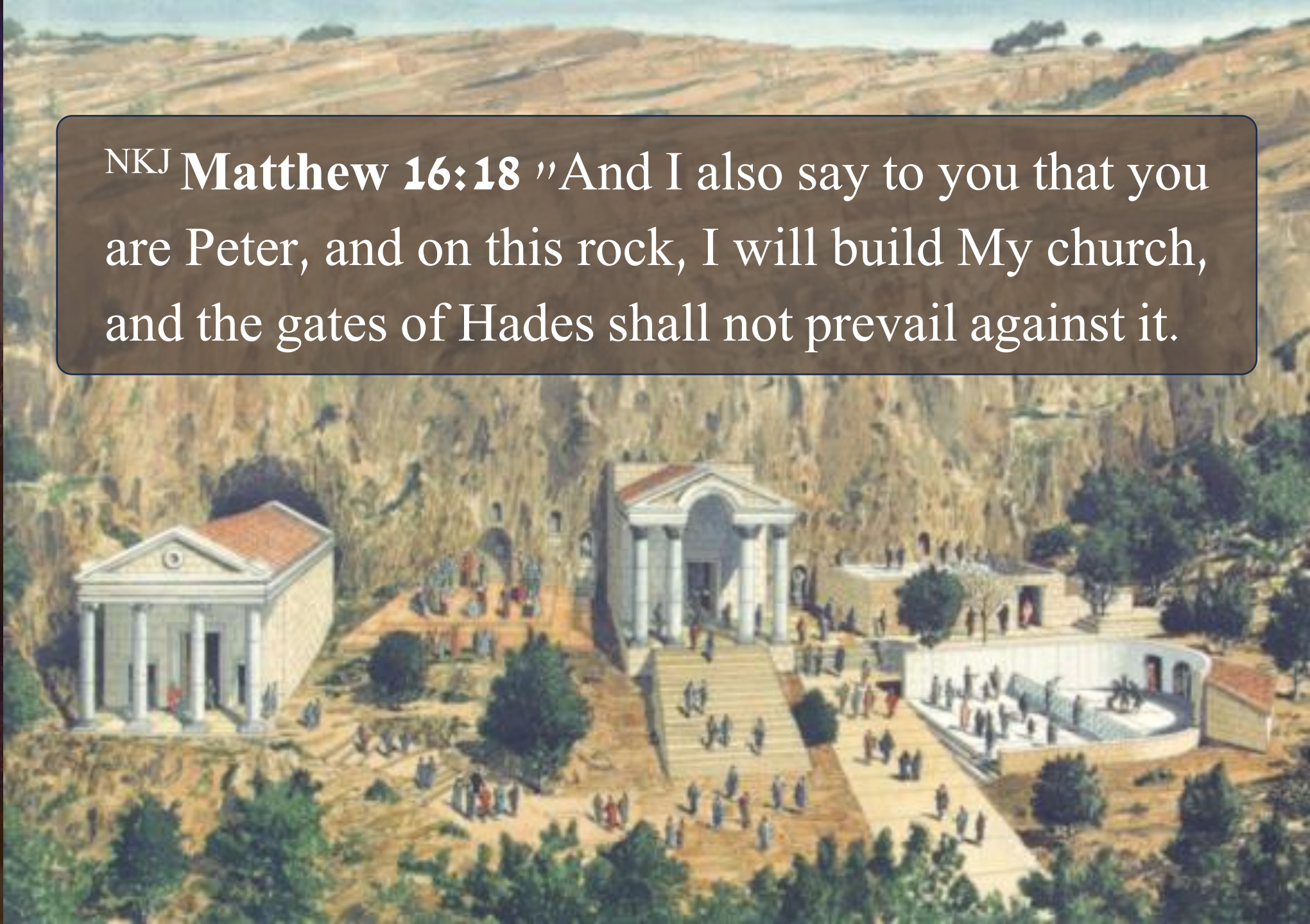








<sup>NKJ</sup> **Matthew 16:18** "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.







# Why Observe Hanukkah?

- Be part of a Restoration





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- Preservation of the Hebrew Culture



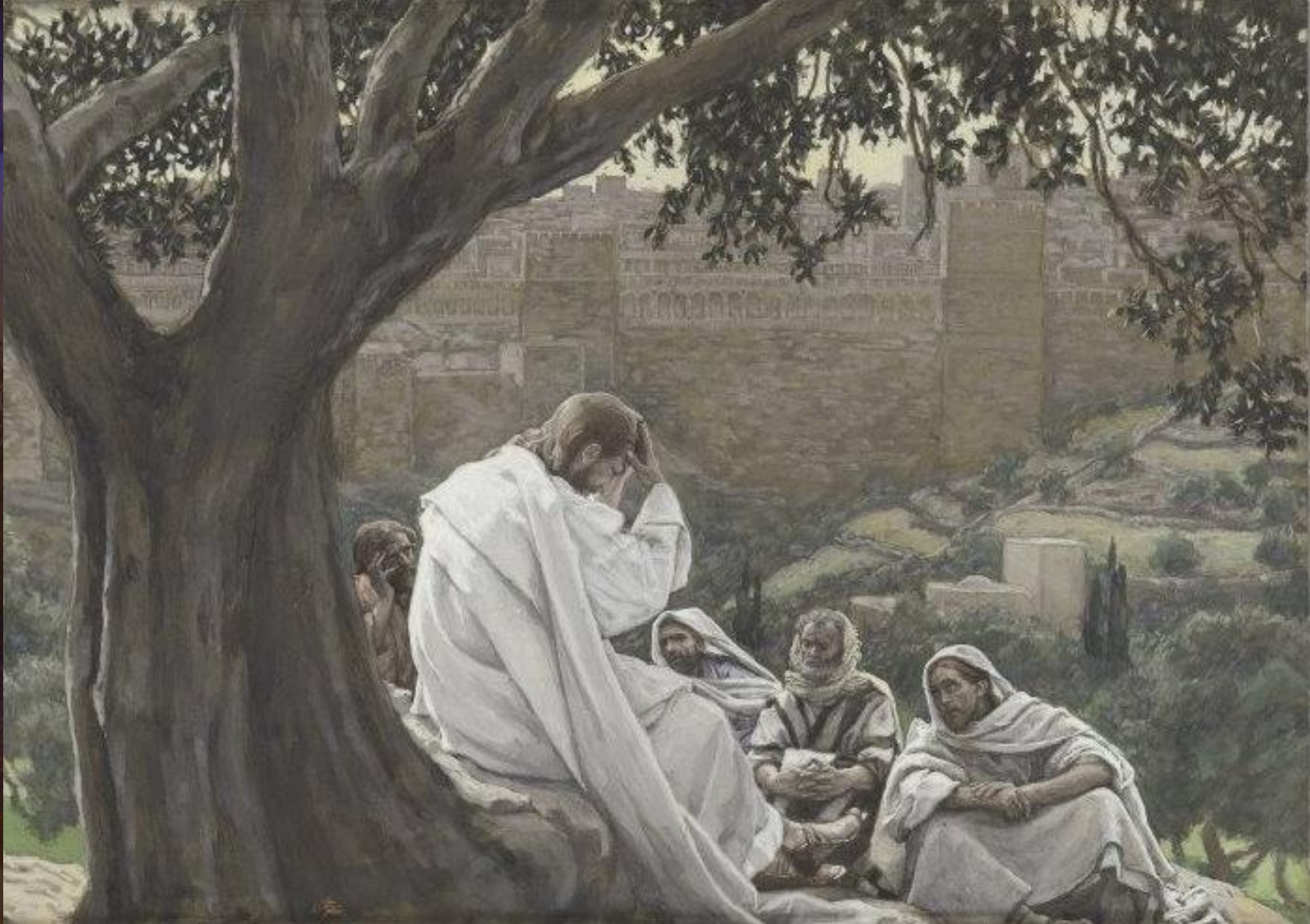




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- Be part of a Restoration
- Preservation of the Hebrew Culture
- Insight into Prophecy









# Why Observe Hanukkah?

- Be part of a Restoration
- Preservation of the Hebrew Culture
- Insight into Prophecy
- Make Judah Jealous



“I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation *has come* to the Gentiles.”

**NKJ Romans 11:11**





Peter and Cornelius  
Jew & non-Jew





# Is Hanukkah in the Scriptures?



NKJ **Dan. 8: 9-11** - And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious *Land*. <sup>10</sup> And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down *some* of the host and *some* of the stars to the ground, and trampled them. <sup>11</sup> He even exalted *himself* as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily *sacrifices* were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down.



NKJ **Zech. 9: 13-15** - For I have bent Judah, My bow, Fitted the bow with Ephraim, And raised up your sons, O Zion, Against your sons, O Greece, And made you like the sword of a mighty man.” <sup>14</sup>  
Then the LORD will be seen over them, And His arrow will go forth like lightning. The Lord GOD will blow the trumpet, And go with whirlwinds from the south. <sup>15</sup> The LORD of hosts will defend them ...





<sup>NKJ</sup> **Matt. 24: 15-16; 20** - "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place " (whoever reads, let him understand), <sup>16</sup> "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

<sup>20</sup> "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

**NKJ John 10:22-24** Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. <sup>23</sup> And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch. <sup>24</sup> 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."





- . It helps to reinforce our walk, especially as more people are drawn back to this way of life
- . It commemorates a people who were willing to stand up against great odds to preserve the Hebrew way of life
- . It provides insight into prophecy
- . It provides an avenue whereby we can fulfill our role to making Judah jealous for YHVH
- . It's not based in a previous pagan practice, that is – as long as we don't bring paganism into it
- . Yeshua observed it.









שְׁלוֹם לָכֶם  
Shalom Alechim

*Peace be Unto You*