


Hoehen a Hanukah Hair Ball

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By Joseph F. Dumond

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News Letter 5847-039

21st day of the 9th month 5847 years after the creation of Adam
The 9th Month in the Second year of the third Sabbatical Cycle
The Third Sabbatical Cycle of the 119th Jubilee Cycle
The Sabbatical Cycle of Earthquakes Famines, and Pestilences

December 17, 2011

Shabbat Shalom Brethren,

I would like to start off this Newsletter with an exchange I had with a brother over those things I have said in my Newsletter last week about Chanukah. Indeed I have been caught up in this argument once again this year on a number of forums. I felt this exchange was most brotherly.

Shalom Joseph,

I hope you are doing well with all the brethren on your side. I also hope that your family is doing well.

I was pricked in my heart today when I received your newsletter in which you equated Chanukah with some pagan festivals. I completely disagree with you that such interpretations on your part are not essentially part of Mainstream Judaism. Of course there many man-made 'torah shel baal peh' assertions that Yeshua couldn't tolerate. Yeshua's halacha is far much more greater than Rabbinical halacha. He is Mashiyach and we as His followers expect that to be the case as plainly expounded in the Brit Chadasha.

You know that Chanukah is coming and maybe that is why you are warning people not to partake of it. I am one of those who celebrate Chanukah and I totally disagree with your labelling and I quote direct from your sighted moon newsletter, 'But do not be deceived and jump from one pagan ditch to another. That is by jumping from pagan Christian festival of lights to a Jewish festival of lights called Chanukah. It is the exact same festival only with a different name given to it. It is not found in Lev 23 and you should not be keeping it'.

The word Chanukah simply mean 'dedication' as you may already know. The celebration of Chanukah is not pagan exercise at all. By celebrating Chanukah Jews (myself included among them) are telling the world that their hatred against Torah values will not stand. Heaven will eventually intervene; Jews and all those who fear Elohim will be overcomers, defeating the dense darkness has fallen upon the world since the rule of Nebuchadnezzar. Antiochus Epiphanes was an evil man beyond comprehension and description. On the 15 of Kislev he

and his evil hordes broke into the Hechal and desecrated it. They took out the Torah Scroll (the Word of YHWH), torn it into pieces and burn it into ashes. Mothers who circumcised their children against the evil king's decree not to Jewish boys were murdered and infants hanged by their necks in public arena.

When Yehudah Macabi saw the atrocities done by these wretched Greeks he decided to fight for the sake of Torah and the promises given to Avraham, Yitzhack and Ya'akov. The word Macabi is an acronym taken from Shirat Hayam (Song of the Sea, of Mosheh), also mentioned in Rev. 15:3, which the Faithful will sing again on Eretz Yisrael's soil as the Kingdom is inaugurated at the coming of Y'shua. Yehudah the priest formed this word (Macabi) from each Hebrew word in Shemot 15:11- Mi Chamocha BaEliim YHWH. The last 'i' of this acronym is the first letter of our Father's Name 'Yod'. Bt you have to read the actual text in Hebrew in order to be convinced. Also read genuine history of Channukah and see how a tiny group of people managed to defeat the enemy against all odds.

Channukah lights have nothing to do with paganism. The ner tamid (perpetual lights) that were lit in the Hechal after the enemy was defeated originated in the Torah itself since the Menorah was meant to accomplish that. The Channukah was a letter introduction and I do not think it is right to major in trivial matters at this point. Just about that miracle means. There is nothing pagan about the event unless you decided to interpret it that way. Christianity is plainly a pagan ditch but Judaism is not a pagan ditch if we put things into their proper context. You would agree that Y'shua came to redeem mankind and reform Judaism from within and not from outside. He conflicted with authority but in no way does he tell His people to invent halacha.

Yochanan 10: 22, At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Yerushalayim.

This verse refers to Channukah. I believe Y'shua approved of it as he was a fellow Jew or just by his presence. Remember people vote with their feet. The Hebrew word 'regel' means habit and action. If you doubt Y'shua's intentions, look at the preceding verse 21. He taught them and they were all amazed. But did he said to them and why?

Yochanan 21: 25 tells us that there are many other things that Y'shua did but were never recorded since the volume of books would have been so many that our short lifespan would elapse without not even gone through some of those books. However, the spirit of all Truth speaks to our Lev (our Heart, the center of beingness) that what is recorded in the books we have is essentially the intention of Heaven, and that those who joined themselves to Elohim will know His ways.

You say 'It is the exact same festival only with a different name given to it. It is not found in Lev 23 and you should not be keeping it". Again, I would like to say again that Channukah is not pagan. It simply relive the memories of the great redemption that Elohim accorded His people at a time of great peril. What about paganism coping from Torah principles and turning them into an abomination? Do you also see that happening? No, lighting the menorah was not a

pagan idea but was given on Mount Sinai as part of Torah. Flavius Josephus (Antiquities of the Jews) in explaining the Urim and the Thummim plainly said that nations stole from Torah.

Therefore we should not see things in the light of what a pagan does with their abominable things but from Torah perspective. The Macabi's fought for Torah's sake and because of this we ought to recognize the miracles that ensued.

A thousand Jews (mothers, fathers and children) were murdered on Shabbat as they did not want to break Shabbat by defending themselves. Their blood cries out from the ground just as the blood of righteous Hevel does to this very day. That is why we need to remember it. The same thing applies to the Holocaust event. But there is no real difference between the holocaust between the holocaust and Channukah; the difference is basically the medium of extermination, otherwise they are essentially the same- destroy Jews and their love for Torah. I suppose you would want to Yertzheit those who perished during the holocaust in Germany and yet you won't recognize their horrors of the evil Grecian empire. Is it because one happened years ago and the other one occurred in the 19th century? By denying Channukah you are saying that those events never happened. At least recognize Elohim for what did for you and me.

Channukah is NOT an addition to the Torah of Mosheh or else you would also question Nechemiah's writings, because he made a decree that all Jewry and their offspring's afterward must remember Purim. Also, there is not a single verse in the Brit Chadasha alluding to the fact that Y'shua and his talmidim kept Purim. But they (Y'shua included) literally did keep it given the peshat interpretation of Nechemiah's text! Purim and Channukah are times of gladness for all those who fear Elohim; they are not an addition to the Torah at all. It all depend on how you want to interpret the texts. Did you notice that NO Saharon nor Rosh Chodesh is mentioned in Vayyikra 23! I know Chanukah is not there either.

Historically, celebrating Channukah was banned during the Seleucids (Greeks) reign and was only allowed to be celebrated during the Roman occupation of Eretz Yisrael. The Romans were happy to see Jews celebrate the defeat of their enemies who were apparently also enemies of Roman.

My advice to you as a brother is that you acknowledge the saving acts of Merciful and compassionate Father. To reject Chanukah (and most likely Purim) on the basis of supposed paganist ideas is not supported by history. It is all up to you but please allow the Jewish world and Fearers of Elohim to thank Him for the wonderful acts He accomplished in a time of great despair. As for me and my family we will continue to remember Chanukah and Purim in honour of Elyon and His redemptive work (Shemot 15: 11- Who is like you YHWH?). I fully trust Elohim we will sing again the Song of Mosheh used by Yehudah as his banner for battle. This is how understand Channukah.
Shalom.

I wrote back to Shimon the following;

Shalom Shimon, I want to thank you for your lovely email. It is well written. I would like to address those things you have said and to use it in next week's News Letter. I pray I have time to do so.

But let me just say here to you, that I do appreciate your letter. I think we agree on a number of things. The Maccabees and the deeds they performed with Yehovah's help.

This is not what I am fighting against. What I am against is the lie that the Chanukiah or 9 candle menorah is used and that the Menorah stayed lit miraculously for eight days. Maccabees does not say this. This was added by Rabbinic sources to promote the day.

The Chanukiah Bush now used by some is nothing more than a Jewish Christmas tree. Again this is what I am fighting against.

The Festival of lights began long before there was ever a Jew or Israelite born much less a Maccabee. It was created for the worship and memorial of Nimrod after he was executed by Shem.

This same festival of lights is called Diwali in India and Christmas and something else I forget right now in China.

I am well aware of the history of the Maccabees and I hope to begin to teach the 2 books soon.

But the holiday that now surrounds it is what I am against.

If you separate the traditions that most keep to celebrate Chanukah and throw them out and then teach what the Maccabees did and how this is to come again. I have nothing to say but would encourage it. But once you begin to dress this event up and make it look like Xmas then I have a lot to say.

We are commanded not to add to Torah. There was no exception clause in that statement. None. So why do so many try to justify this additional Holy day season? To compete with Xmas? Yehovah said not to add to the torah yet people do with this holiday, without blinking an eye.

I agree with the true story of the Maccabees, but the dreidel and the chanukah bush and the nine candle stick Menorah and the story it remained lit for eight days I simply cannot accept.

When you get time off because of Christmas does this mean you kept it. Yet you use this type of logic to say Yehshua kept Chanukah because He was at the Temple at that time of year. It is a reference to the time of year and cannot be said to be any more than that. It does not say Yehshua kept it. Not at all. It does not say any of the apostles kept it.

We are given the Sabbath to test us each week and each Holy Day. We are given Chanukah and Purim to again test us and see if we will keep just those days in Lev 23 or if we will add others of our own choosing to the Torah.

I have not had the privilege to be raised in a Jewish Home. I many times wish I had. But coming from a Christian religion and then realizing how much we were lied too, has made me want to check each and everything else I am going to now believe in. Chanukah was one of those I did check. And I found it wanting.

I am not going to get everyone to stop keeping this festival. But I am not going to stop trying. It has been corrupted into the pagan customs of this time of year. What people say now is that they would agree and that they are not going to do the same thing but will still keep it in the pure form. This is the same line Christians use to justify the keeping of Christmas in its pure form of the birth of Jesus. They then do not do the Santa thing but keep the tree and make sure they think about Jesus on this day.

This is the festival of lights dedicated to the memory of Satan the angel of light who was represented by Nimrod.

Chanukah is called the festival of lights. Christmas is called the festival of lights. They all occur at about the same time of year. As the day is at its shortest time. So lights were lit to encourage the Sun to come back. Or to encourage the return of Nimrod from death.

It is not the Maccabean I am against it is the false traditions that are now promoted around this event.

Each of the Holy Days are kept the same around the world by people because we have directions on how to keep them. Do we have any on how to keep the Festival of Chanukah or Purim? Again nothing can be found in Lev 23.

Christmas was a lovely time and the family would get together and have a great meal. But the whole event was based on lies. So I gave it up once I had proven it to be lies. Chanukah is a great time for family get together and etc....I understand the reluctance to give it up. But it is based on lies and corrupted with traditions that are not true.

Hezekiah destroyed the Bronze Serpent that Moses made which Yehovah told him to make. Why? Because the Bronze Serpent on the pole had become an object of worship or an idol and so Hezekiah had it destroyed to prevent the people from sinning.

Is this not the same sort of thing here? The promotion of lies during Christmas and the promotion of lies at Chanukah.

Show me the miracle in Maccabees of the menorah staying lit for eight nights. Quote me the chapter and verse. It is not there because it never happened.

I hope I have stated my case respectfully. I only want to do what Yehovah has said in His Torah, especially after having been deceived for so long and now seeing those lies for what they were.

Shalom from
Grandpa Joseph F Dumond

He then wrote back to me the following:

I also thank you for changing your position on what you wrote. In other words you are simply warning people against any additions (Rabbinical) that may not have been part of Channukah. I know of people who have rejected Channukah altogether just because of some rabbinical things. However, I completely still disagree with you on the very name of the Feast of Channukah. Josephus himself referred to this Feast as the Festival of Lights, implying that the menorah was ceremoniously lit as people rejoice and thank Elohim for His mighty deeds. So do not blame the rabbis as they didn't coin the name. Josephus himself called it the Festival of Lights. And by the way, Flavius Josephus is not highly regarded by the Rabbinical world. I have come across lots of brethren who blame the rabbis for everything. They think the rabbis coined the tallit, they think the rabbis coined some of the ancient prayers written in the siddur. This sort of political wrangling within the Body is not healthy at all. People simply need to settle, study the Word and trust in Elohim for all their needs. As for me, the Feast of Channukah is necessary. Each one of us must be a Macabi. We have to stand up and resist the dense darkness that has engulfed the world. That is what Channukah is all about.

I believed they lit the Menorah NOT the Chanukkiah we know today. The concepts of gifts and Gelts must have been later additions. These are trivial matters if we focus on YHWH as our Redeemer and not man. However, these practices do not diminish the original intention of the Feast. Therefore, let your readers clearly understand that you celebrate Channukah but you disagree with some things. According to your faith so be it.
Shalom.

Brethren I shared with you two articles in last week's Newsletter which explained the Festival of Lights and how it was for the worship of Nimrod. I do hope each of you will be Berean and do your homework and look into the festival of lights as Chanukah is called and learn the truth and do not just follow the crowd.

Also the lighting of candles in a religious situation also stems from the festival of lights to give honour to the enlightened one; Satan. So be sure you know why you do what you do. Do Not add to torah, Do not Add to Torah. Yehovah says it over and over Do Not Add to Torah and yet people say no I won't but this is OK because it is to give honour to God.

Yehovah says do not worship me the way the heathen do. And do not add to Torah. Do you get it yet Yehovah DO not add to Torah.

And for the Record I do not celebrate Chanukah. It is not found in Lev 23 and I will not add to Torah a new holi day. The story of the Maccabees is just another chapter in a book. It is a history of the Jewish people the same as Judges or Samuel are.

The Stories of Hanukah by Benjamin Mordecai Ben-Baruch

Hanukah is first and foremost a historical holiday, originally proclaimed by Judah Maccabee at the end of a bloody and violent guerrilla war that was both a rebellion against the Seleucid empire as well as a civil war among Jews. It took several generations before Hanukah was universally celebrated by Jews all over the world. There are several stories about Hanukah in the original and rabbinic texts from which we can delineate the history of how early generations reinterpreted the historical significance of the holiday and of its central ritual, the lighting of the hanukiyah, or eight-branched menorah.

When Judea achieved full autonomy and de facto independence from the Seleucid empire, the guerilla army of peasants removed the items used by their Jewish foes in the Temple Service, made new items (including a menorah which provided light while they cleaned the inside of the Temple), tore down the “profaned” altar and built a new altar, and (on Kislev 25) celebrated with the first sacrifice on the new altar. At the end of this service, Judah proclaimed to the assembled people that “days of dedica-tion” should be celebrated for eight days every year. (ch. 4. [1] Unable to celebrate their favorite festival, Succot, () for two or three years because of the wars, the first Hanukah celebration was “Succot in Kislev” and celebrated like Succot (replete with lulavim). (II Maccabees ch. 10.)[2]

Lighting candles soon became part of the holiday celebration. A variety of rabbinic stories began to be told to answer the questions: (1) Why do we light candles on Hanukah? (2) Why is Hanukah 8 days? Each story represents part of the oral tradition of the Pharisees and rabbis whose relationship to the Hasmoneans changed over time.

“[At Hanukah] we commemorate the dedication of the Temple by the Hasmoneans who fought and defeated the Hellenists, and we kindle lights — just as when [we] finished the Tabernacle in the Wilderness” (Pesikta Rabbati, ch. 6)

“Why do we kindle lights on Hanukah? Because when the sons of the Hasmoneans, the High Priest, defeated the Hellenists, they entered the Temple and found there eight iron spears. They stuck candles on them and lit them.” (Pesikta Rabbati ch. 2)

“Why did the rabbis make Hanukah eight days? Because . . . the Hasmoneans entered the Temple and erected the altar and whitewashed it and repaired all of the ritual utensils. They were kept busy for eight days. And why do we light candles? Because . . . when the Hasmoneans entered the Temple there were eight iron spears in their hands. They covered them with wood and lit candles on them. They did this each of the 8 days.” (Megilat Ta’anitch. 9)

After a descendant of the Hasmoneans joined forces with the Sadducees and after the decline of the Hasmonean dynasty and after a civil war (ca. 67-61 BC) during which perhaps more than 100,000 Jews were killed, another “traditional” story gained dominance:

“What is Hanukah? When the Hellenists entered the Temple, they desecrated all of the oil. And when the Hasmonean dynasty grew and defeated them, they searched but found only

one cruse of oil sealed with the stamp of the High Priest, and there was only enough in it to burn for one day. A miracle happened and it burned for eight days. The next year they made these days a fixed annual commemoration . . .” (TB Shabbat 21b; also Schol. Megilat Taanith 25 Kislev)

Each of these classical texts represents the point of view of a particular political group at a specific point in time with conflicting visions of the present and future needs of the Jewish people. One of the crucial issues for them was whether or not Jews should glorify the Hasmoneans, the leaders of the fight for independence who devolved into the tyrants that led Israel to one of its greatest catastrophes. Our tradition answered by honoring the earlier generation that achieved independence and by criticizing their heirs who corrupted the polity and plunged it into an escalating spiral of 100 years of internal and external wars culminating in the destruction of the Second Commonwealth and the end of Jewish sovereignty.

Then having prepared all of this, I was then sent a teaching by Michael Rood. I could not believe what I was hearing, so I have copied it here for you to hear. Michael does a great job of explaining the story of the Maccabees which I have no problem with; but then goes on to say that the first Chanukah was declared on Kislev 25 which that year was December 25 in 165 BC.

So right here at the start, Chanukah was to replace the pagan worship of Nimrod on Dec 25.

[Listen to Michael say this in his own words. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9hV3nXzZMEs&feature=player_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9hV3nXzZMEs&feature=player_embedded)

Listen to him speak at the 3:30 mark.

December 25 was Kislev 25 that year.

According to 1 Maccabees 4:52-59 and Wentzel’s A Chronology of Biblical Christianity, the Holy Place was properly restored on Kislev (December) 25, 165 B.C.

<http://www.spiritjournals.com/Bible%20Studies/Feasts/Study%20Lessons/feastless11.htm>

Judas Maccabees and his followers came back into Jerusalem and solemnly cleansed the Temple from the profanations to which it had been subjected under Antiochus. He removed the polluted altar, and put the stones in a separate place on the Temple mount, and restored the worship of the Lord (1 Maccabees 4:52, 56, 59). This “cleansing of the Sanctuary” (Daniel 8:13-14) took place on the 25th day of Chisleu (December the 25th), and the joyous celebration lasted for eight days.

Yeshua when questioned about the apostles spoke back to the Rabbis and indeed to each of us today;

Matt 15:3 – He answered and said to them, “Why do you also transgress the commandment of Elohim because of your tradition?”

He didn’t like the traditions of the Scribes and Pharisees because they transgressed Yehovah’s clear commandments.

Christmas is also transgressing the commandment of Yehovah in favour of tradition. But first, notice that He goes on to say:

Matt 15:7 – “Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 8 `These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with [their] lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ ”

We have always equated this scripture with those who kept the pagan feast days, i.e. Christmas. But it equally applies to those Messianics who are justifying the keeping of Chanukah and Purim. Commandments of men that are now taught as Doctrines from Torah.

Deu 12:28 “Guard, and obey all these words which I command you, that it might be well with you and your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the eyes of Yehovah your Elohim. 29 “When Yehovah your Elohim does cut off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land, 30 guard yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire about their mighty ones, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their mighty ones?

And let me do so too.’¹ Footnote: ¹See also 18:9, Lev. 18:3, Jer.10:2, Ezek. 11:12 & 20:32, Eph. 4:17, and 1 Peter 4:3

Deu 18:9 “When you come into the land which Yehovah your Elohim is giving you, do not learn to do according to the abominations of those gentiles.

Lev 18:3 ‘Do not do as they do in the land of Mitsrayim, where you dwelt. And do not do as they do in the land of Kena’an, where I am bringing you, and do not walk in their laws.

How much clearer does Yehovah have to say it? Do not copy the pagan feast days. Do not change them and dedicate them to Yehovah. Do not change the celebration of Jupiter or Nimrod at Christmas time on Dec 25 and call it Chanukah on Kislev 25 the exact same day that very first year and dedicate it to Yehovah.

Do you get it??? Yehovah even makes this very specific by describing what went on, on this December 25 each year and it is because of this that He wanted nothing to do with it. Read it yourself again in Deuteronomy.

Deu 12:31 “Do not do so to Yehovah your Elohim, for every abomination which Yehovah hates they have done to their mighty ones, for they even burn their sons and daughters in the fire to their mighty ones.

He does not want you to change the day of burning your infants on December 25 which was dedicated to Nimrod and then to change it and call it Chanukah and call it the day of Cleansing the Temple. Both feasts are called the Festival of Lights. It is the same feast with a different name. And Yehovah says not to do it. They killed the children on this very same day and in Deut 12:31 Yehovah is even referring to it.

I do not care one iota about all the biblical teachings you can draw on for Chanukah. Christians can do the same for Christmas. Yehovah says not to do it; PERIOD.

No Yeah-buts. Stop the sinning and the justifying of your sinning and open rebellion against the most High. He says not to do it so do not keep these pagan days and justify it by dedicating it to Him. Stop the rebellion.

I have often wondered why Judah has suffered these past 2000 years if they were keeping Torah. It used to bother me that Yehovah did not bless them with peace and bounty for keeping Torah. Then it occurred to me that they had mixed seed in their keeping of Torah and each time they were persecuted was Yehovah trying to get them to repent and return to Him, but they kept doing it their way and not His.

We are told in Deut why we should guard the commands; “ that it might be well with you and your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the eyes of Yehovah your Elohim.”

Hoch up another Chanukah hair ball excuse not to obey and as you do keep in mind the sword is at the door. It will soon be here in all its fury.