



Hanukkah

Celebrating God's Faithfulness and Provision



Psalm 18:25 (NIV)

**To the faithful You show Yourself faithful
to the blameless You show Yourself blameless**



Zechariah 8:3

**The Lord says: I will return to Zion
and dwell in Jerusalem.**



The Israeli Declaration of Independence

- Issued at midnight on May 14th 1948
 - May 15th a coalition of 5 Arab states try to oust Israel from their own land
 - A rag-tag army with homemade weapons and a few guns left over from WWII
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GOD'S FAITHFULNESS & PROVISION!



Taking Back Mount Zion

- Israelis fought Jordan military
 - Israel surrounded by hundreds with only 25 bullets left
 - A supernatural miracle occurs
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GOD'S FAITHFULNESS & PROVISION!



Taking Eliat

- An uncertain mission but a successful capture
 - Israeli Flag
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Six Day War, June 1967

- Started by an Egyptian act of war
 - Also involved Syria and Jordan
 - Miracle against the Egyptian Airforce
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Taking Back Jerusalem

- Engaged in a violent battle in East Jerusalem
 - Stillness & quietness ... a trap?
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Yom Kippur War, 1973

- Israelis fasting and confessing sin
 - Syria invaded a weak and inattentive Israel
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Operation Entebbe, Uganda 1976

- Rescuing 103 Jewish Hostages from a hijacked plane
 - A modern day miracle
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The Gas Attack That Never Was - Gulf War 1991

- Israel not actively involved
 - Strange wind patterns
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Massacre Averted

- Summer 2014 Hamas builds tunnels into Israel
 - But it was a Shmita year, a 7 year cycle
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GOD'S FAITHFULNESS & PROVISION!



Even TODAY in 2022

- The Iron Dome Missile Defence system
 - Has saved countless lives, Israeli businesses, farms & property
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GOD'S FAITHFULNESS & PROVISION!



Hanukkah is also known as:

- **The Festival of Lights**
- **The Feast of Dedication**
- **John 10:22**



168 BC Antiochus Epiphanes IV Ruler of the Syrian Kingdom

- Wanted to wipe out Judaism as it was the religion of Jews who lived in his empire
- Wanted a one world religion
- Desecrated the Temple



- Mattathias, priest of the Jews in Modin and his 5 sons refused to sacrifice a pig on the altar.
- Mattathias killed Antiochus Epiphanes' representative and then took off for the Judean wilderness shouting ...
"Whoever is for God, follow me!"



Three years TO THE DAY, after Antiochus' original mad rampage on Kislev 25, 168 BC, it is now Kislev 25, 165 BC & the Maccabees hold a dedication ceremony, or a HANUKKAH which simply means rededication



Hanukkah was born to commemorate God's faithfulness and provision.

The Hanukkiah with its 9 candles gives us light. It was lit to celebrate the rededication of the temple and Jewish lives to God.



Matthew 5:14-16

- 14. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.**
- 15. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.**
- 16. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.**



- Is there the oil of the Holy Spirit in my lamp?
 - Am I ready in these days, is my wick trimmed?
 - Have I lit my lamp that I might shine Jesus to others?
 - In my life have I truly experienced the miracle of salvation?
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**Salvation is the greatest miracle of all!
It is God's faithfulness and provision to
each of us for all eternity.**