

# The Feast of Dedication

1 Maccabees 1:41-53

[41]Moreover king Antiochus wrote to his whole kingdom, that all should be one people,

[42]And every one should leave his laws: so all the heathen agreed according to the commandment of the king.

[43]Yea, many also of the Israelites consented to his religion, and sacrificed unto idols, and profaned the sabbath.

[44]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,

[45]And forbid burnt offerings, and sacrifice, and drink offerings, in the temple; and that they should profane the sabbaths and festival days:

[46]And pollute the sanctuary and holy people:

[47]Set up altars, and groves, and chapels of idols, and sacrifice swine's flesh, and unclean beasts:

[48]That they should also leave their children uncircumcised, and make their souls abominable with all manner of uncleanness and profanation:

[49]To the end they might forget the law, and change all the ordinances.

[50]And whosoever would not do according to the commandment of the king, he said, he should die.

[51]In the selfsame manner wrote he to his whole kingdom, and appointed overseers over all the people, commanding the cities of Juda to sacrifice, city by city.

[52]Then many of the people were gathered unto them, to wit every one that forsook the law; and so they committed evils in the land;

[53]And drove the Israelites into secret places, even wheresoever they could flee for succour.

1 Maccabees 1:54,59

[54]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;

[59]Now the five and twentieth day of the month they did sacrifice upon the idol altar, which was upon the altar of Alahayim.

1 Maccabees 4:41-59

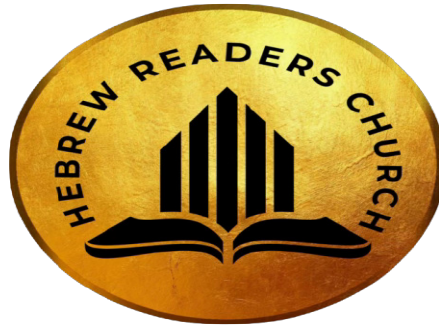
[41]Then Judas appointed certain men to fight against those that were in the fortress, until he had cleansed the sanctuary.

[42]So he chose priests of blameless conversation, such as had pleasure in the law:

[43]Who cleansed the sanctuary, and bare out the defiled stones into an unclean place.

[44]And when as they consulted what to do with the altar of burnt offerings, which was profaned;

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[45]They thought it best to pull it down, lest it should be a reproach to them, because the heathen had defiled it: wherefore they pulled it down,

[46]And laid up the stones in the mountain of the temple in a convenient place, until there should come a prophet to shew what should be done with them.

[47]Then they took whole stones according to the law, and built a new altar according to the former;

[48]And made up the sanctuary, and the things that were within the temple, and hallowed the courts.

[49]They made also new holy vessels, and into the temple they brought the candlestick, and the altar of burnt offerings, and of incense, and the table.

[50]And upon the altar they burned incense, and the lamps that were upon the candlestick they lighted, that they might give light in the temple.

[51]Furthermore they set the loaves upon the table, and spread out the veils, and finished all the works which they had begun to make.

[52]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,

[53]And offered sacrifice according to the law upon the new altar of burnt offerings, which they had made.

[54]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.

[55]Then all the people fell upon their faces, worshipping and praising the Alahayim of heaven, who had given them good success.

[56]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.

[57]They decked also the forefront of the temple with crowns of gold, and with shields; and the gates and the chambers they renewed, and hanged doors upon them.

[58]Thus was there very great gladness among the people, for that the reproach of the heathen was put away.

[59]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.

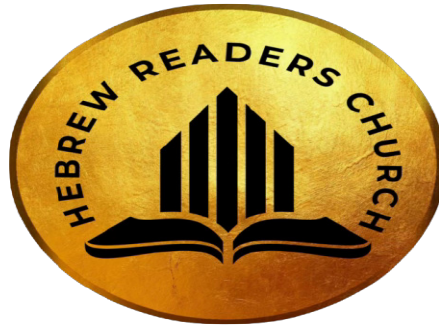
2Ma 1:1

The brethren, the Jews that be at Jerusalem and in the land of Judea, wish unto the brethren, the Jews that are throughout Egypt health and peace:

2Ma 1:2

Alahayim be gracious unto you, and remember his covenant that he made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, his faithful servants;

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2Ma 1:3

And give you all an heart to serve him, and to do his will, with a good courage and a willing mind;

2Ma 1:4

And open your hearts in his law and commandments, and send you peace,

2Ma 1:5

And hear your prayers, and be at one with you, and never forsake you in time of trouble.

2Ma 1:6

And now we be here praying for you.

2Ma 1:7

What time as Demetrius reigned, in the hundred threescore and ninth year, we the Jews wrote unto you in the extremity of trouble that came upon us in those years, from the time that Jason and his company revolted from the holy land and kingdom,

2Ma 1:8

And burned the porch, and shed innocent blood: then we prayed unto the Lord, and were heard; we offered also sacrifices and fine flour, and lighted the lamps, and set forth the loaves.

2Ma 1:9

And now see that ye keep the feast of tabernacles in the month Casleu.

2Ma 1:10

In the hundred fourscore and eighth year, the people that were at Jerusalem and in Judea, and the council, and Judas, sent greeting and health unto Aristobulus, king Ptolemeus' master, who was of the stock of the anointed priests, and to the Jews that were in Egypt:

2Ma 1:18

Therefore whereas we are now purposed to keep the purification of the temple upon the five and twentieth day of the month Casleu, we thought it necessary to certify you thereof, that ye also might keep it, as the feast of the tabernacles, and of the fire, which was given us when Neemias offered sacrifice, after that he had builded the temple and the altar.

2Ma 1:19

For when our fathers were led into Persia, the priests that were then devout took the fire of the altar privily, and hid it in an hollow place of a pit without water, where they kept it sure, so that the place was unknown to all men.

2Ma 1:20

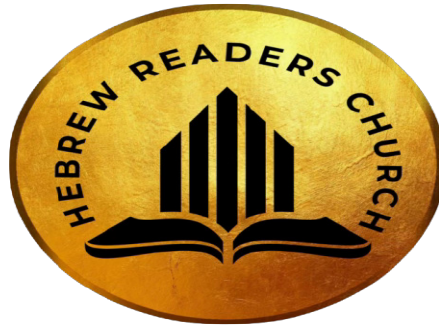
Now after many years, when it pleased Alahayim, Neemias, being sent from the king of Persia, did send of the posterity of those priests that had hid it to the fire: but when they told us they found no fire, but thick water;

2Ma 1:21

Then commanded he them to draw it up, and to bring it; and when the sacrifices were laid on, Neemias commanded the priests to sprinkle the wood and the things laid thereupon with the water.

2Ma 1:22

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When this was done, and the time came that the sun shone, which afore was hid in the cloud, there was a great fire kindled, so that every man marvelled.

2Ma 1:23

And the priests made a prayer whilst the sacrifice was consuming, I say, both the priests, and all the rest, Jonathan beginning, and the rest answering thereunto, as Neemias did.

2Ma 1:24

And the prayer was after this manner; O Lord, Lord Alahayim, Creator of all things, who art fearful and strong, and righteous, and merciful, and the only and gracious King,

2Ma 1:25

The only giver of all things, the only just, almighty, and everlasting, thou that deliverest Israel from all trouble, and didst choose the fathers, and sanctify them:

2Ma 1:26

Receive the sacrifice for thy whole people Israel, and preserve thine own portion, and sanctify it.

2Ma 1:27

Gather those together that are scattered from us, deliver them that serve among the heathen, look upon them that are despised and abhorred, and let the heathen know that thou art our Alahayim.

2Ma 1:28

Punish them that oppress us, and with pride do us wrong.

2Ma 1:29

Plant thy people again in thy holy place, as Moses hath spoken.

2Ma 1:30

And the priests sung psalms of thanksgiving.

2Ma 1:31

Now when the sacrifice was consumed, Neemias commanded the water that was left to be poured on the great stones.

2Ma 1:32

When this was done, there was kindled a flame: but it was consumed by the light that shined from the altar.

2Ma 1:33

So when this matter was known, it was told the king of Persia, that in the place, where the priests that were led away had hid the fire, there appeared water, and that Neemias had purified the sacrifices therewith.

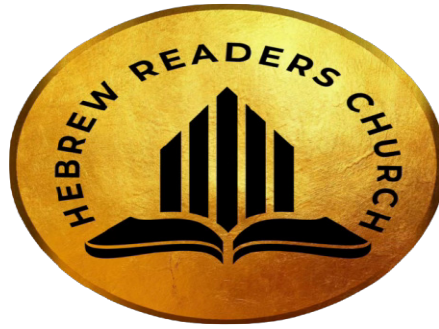
2Ma 1:34

Then the king, inclosing the place, made it holy, after he had tried the matter.

2Ma 1:35

And the king took many gifts, and bestowed thereof on those whom he would gratify.

2Ma 1:36



And Neemias called this thing Naphthar, which is as much as to say, a cleansing: but many men call it Nephi.

2Ma 2:1

It is also found in the records, that Jeremy the prophet commanded them that were carried away to take of the fire, as it hath been signified:

2Ma 2:2

And how that the prophet, having given them the law, charged them not to forget the commandments of the Lord, and that they should not err in their minds, when they see images of silver and gold, with their ornaments.

2Ma 2:3

And with other such speeches exhorted he them, that the law should not depart from their hearts.

2Ma 2:4

It was also contained in the same writing, that the prophet, being warned of Alahayim, commanded the tabernacle and the ark to go with him, as he went forth into the mountain, where Moses climbed up, and saw the heritage of Alahayim.

2Ma 2:5

And when Jeremy came thither, he found an hollow cave, wherein he laid the tabernacle, and the ark, and the altar of incense, and so stopped the door.

2Ma 2:6

And some of those that followed him came to mark the way, but they could not find it.

2Ma 2:7

Which when Jeremy perceived, he blamed them, saying, As for that place, it shall be unknown until the time that Alahayim gather his people again together, and receive them unto mercy.

2Ma 2:8

Then shall the Lord shew them these things, and the glory of the Lord shall appear, and the cloud also, as it was shewed under Moses, and as when Solomon desired that the place might be honourably sanctified.

2Ma 2:9

It was also declared, that he being wise offered the sacrifice of dedication, and of the finishing of the temple.

2Ma 2:10

And as when Moses prayed unto the Lord, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the sacrifices: even so prayed Solomon also, and the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offerings.

2Ma 2:11

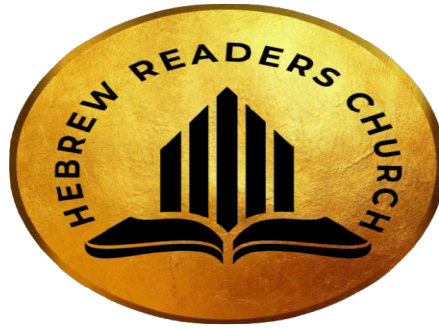
And Moses said, Because the sin offering was not to be eaten, it was consumed.

2Ma 2:12

So Solomon kept those eight days.

2Ma 2:13

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The same things also were reported in the writings and commentaries of Neemias; and how he founding a library gathered together the acts of the kings, and the prophets, and of David, and the epistles of the kings concerning the holy gifts.

2Ma 2:14

In like manner also Judas gathered together all those things that were lost by reason of the war we had, and they remain with us,

2Ma 2:15

Wherefore if ye have need thereof, send some to fetch them unto you.

2Ma 2:16

Whereas we then are about to celebrate the purification, we have written unto you, and ye shall do well, if ye keep the same days.

2Ma 2:17

We hope also, that the Alahayim, that delivered all his people, and gave them all an heritage, and the kingdom, and the priesthood, and the sanctuary,

2Ma 2:18

As he promised in the law, will shortly have mercy upon us, and gather us together out of every land under heaven into the holy place: for he hath delivered us out of great troubles, and hath purified the place.

2Ma 2:19

Now as concerning Judas Maccabeus, and his brethren, and the purification of the great temple, and the dedication of the altar,

2Ma 2:20

And the wars against Antiochus Epiphanes, and Eupator his son,

2Ma 2:21

And the manifest signs that came from heaven unto those that behaved themselves manfully to their honour for Judaism: so that, being but a few, they overcame the whole country, and chased barbarous multitudes,

2Ma 2:22

And recovered again the temple renowned all the world over, and freed the city, and upheld the laws which were going down, the Lord being gracious unto them with all favour:

2Ma 2:23

All these things, I say, being declared by Jason of Cyrene in five books, we will assay to abridge in one volume.

John 10:22-23

[22]And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter. [23]And Yache walked in the temple in Solomon's porch.