

**“In His Name:  
Blessing, Forgiveness, & Healing!”**

**Acts 3:1-26 & 4:4**

Now Peter and John went up together to the **Temple** at the **Hour of Prayer**, the ninth hour (3 pm). And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the **Gate of the Temple** which is called **“Beautiful”**, to ask alms from those who entered the **Temple**, who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the **Temple**, asked for alms. And **Peter** fixing his eyes on the man, with **John**, said, **“Look at us!”** So, the man gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. Then **Peter** said, **“Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: *In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Rise Up and Walk!*”** And **Peter** took the man by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So, the man leaping up, stood, and walked and entered the Temple with them, **Walking, Leaping, and Praising God**. And **All the People** saw him **Walking and Praising God**. Then **They All** knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the **“Beautiful Gate”** of the **Temple**; and **They** were **Filled** with **Wonder** and **Amazement** at what had happened to him. Now as the lame man who was healed held on to **Peter** and **John**, **All the People** ran together to them in **Solomon's Porch**, and were greatly amazed. So, when **Peter** saw it, he responded to the people: **“Men of Israel, why do you *Marvel* at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The *God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of Our Fathers, Has Glorified His Servant Jesus, Whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. But you denied the Holy & Just One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Prince of Life (Author of Life), Whom God Raised From the Dead, of which We are Witnesses. And In Him, Through Faith in His Name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the Faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But those things which God Foretold by the Mouth of All His Prophets, that the Christ Would Suffer, He has thus Fulfilled. Repent therefore and Be Converted, that Your Sins May Be Blotted Out, so that Times of Refreshing may come from the Presence of the Lord, and that He May Send Jesus Christ, Who Was Preached to you before, Whom Heaven must receive until the Times Of Restoration of All Things, which God Has Spoken by the Mouth of All His Holy Prophets since the World began. For Moses truly said to the Fathers, ‘The Lord Your God Will Raise Up for You a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him You Shall Hear in All Things, whatever He Says to You. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’ Yes, and All the Prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also Foretold These Days. You are Sons of the Prophets, and of the Covenant which God Made with Our Fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And In Your Seed all the Families of the Earth shall be Blessed.’ To you first, God, Having Raised Up His Servant Jesus, Sent Him to Bless You, in Turning Away every one of you from Your Iniquities.”***

**Acts 3:1-26 (NKJV)**

Now as **They (Peter & John)** spoke ... **Many of Those Who Heard the Word Believed**; and the **Number of the Men** came to be about **Five Thousand!**

**Acts 4:4 (NKJV)**

## Timing Of The Day

The Ninth Hour – 3 PM

Time Of Evening Prayer Before The Evening Sacrifices

## Location Of Miracle

**“Beautiful Gate”** – Gate Dividing The Outer Court Of The Gentiles  
& The Court Of The Women

## Context & Location Of Teaching & Preaching

... Now as the lame man who was healed held on to **Peter** and **John**, **All the People** ran together to them in **Solomon’s Porch**, and were greatly amazed. So, when **Peter** saw it, he responded to the people ... **Acts 3:11-12a (NKJV)**

## More About Location

**“Solomon’s Portico”** – Outer Court Of The Gentiles

Covered Walkway Where Everyone Mingled & Where Ideas Were Shared  
Debates, Teaching, & Preaching Concerning Philosophy & Theology

See Overview Picture Of The Temple

& Close Up Picture Of The Temple

**Q: What Is The Significance To “Solomon’s Portico”?**

**A:** Because It Was Where Jesus Came & Taught During The **Feast Of Hanukkah**

The **Feast of Dedication** is also known as **“Hanukkah”** and also as the **Festival of Lights**

**“Hanukkah”** is unique because it is not mentioned ~~in~~ in the **“Torah”**

First # 5 Books of the Bible Called the **“Law of Moses”**

To fully understand & appreciate this ancient Jewish festival we must find its origins in the 430 of silence from Malachi the 2<sup>nd</sup> to last of the Old Testament prophets before the arrival of the final Old Testament prophet, John the Baptist. This period of time we are really interested in is referred to as the Hellenistic Period: 334 B.C. First Greek/Macedonian Victory at the Battle of the Granicus River by Alexander III of Macedon, called “Alexander the Great”, until his death in 323 B.C. up to the final defeat of Greece at Corinth in the Fourth Macedonian War that ended in 148 B.C.

After Alexander's death, there developed a political and power vacuum in Alexander’s Kingdom. The result of the inner squabbling and power struggles led to a four-way splitting of the empire among Alexander’s top four generals

Israel & especially Judea was caught in a power struggle for 125 years between the successors of Ptolemy & Seleucid with the Seleucid (Syrian) empire winning out under the leadership of Antiochus III in 198 B.C. His son, **Antiochus IV (Self-Titled “Epiphanes”)** was a very wicked and evil man bent on total unification of his empire under his authority alone. Almost immediately Antiochus IV enforced a policy of assimilation into **Hellenism (Greek Cultural Identity)**. Irrespective of the culture and beliefs of the captured peoples, the Seleucids required submission to the Greek way of life. The Greeks thought that to be truly effective this assimilation must apply to all aspects of life including language, arts, schooling, government, and religion. Everything was to conform to the Greek way of life and values. Hellenism consists of a pantheism of gods that the Greeks worshipped.

Finally, Antiochus IV gave an ultimatum that either the Jewish community give up its distinctive religious practices: Celebration of the Holy Feasts, Sabbath, the Reading of the Torah, Circumcision & Dedication of Children, etc.) or be put to death. To prove his resolve, Antiochus IV marched his troops into Jerusalem and desecrated the Holy Temple. The altars, the utensils, even the golden Menorah were all defiled, destroyed, or torn down.

Next, he ordered that a pig be sacrificed on the holy altar and erected an image of the Greek god Zeus as the new point of worship in the Temple! Finally, 2) **Antiochus IV** Called himself, **“Epiphanies” (God Manifest in Human Flesh on Earth)**. This was an act called the 2) **“Desolation of Abomination”** - thereby making himself an **Antichrist**, who had to be answered by condemnation & destruction by God and His people according to Jewish Law & Tradition!

This act had happened once before in history, when 1) **Nebuchadnezzar’s Son, Belshazzar**, profaned the Holy Vessels of God and proclaimed Himself to be God in the Flesh. **Handwriting on the Wall Came Next!**

The murmurings and stirrings of a revolt were heard in Israel and an actual revolt was planned in a small village called **Modi’in (Modein)** in **Judea**. Living in this village was an old, godly priest named **Mattathias Ben Yochanan Hasmonean** and his **Five Sons: Eliezer, Simon, John, Johnathan, & Judah**. He was chosen by the Seleucid soldiers to be the priest to lead the people in the pagan ceremony of declaring Antiochus IV to be God Himself in the Temple. It was the straw that broke the camel’s back for Mattathias’ sons, and they reacted with holy indignation & anger. Enough was enough! Here again anew the cry of an ancient Jewish priest!

The Lament of Mattathias Ben Yochanan Hasmonean Maccabeus

**1<sup>st</sup> Maccabees 2:1-14**

*In those days Mattathias the son of John, son of Simeon, a priest of the sons of Joarib, moved from Jerusalem and settled in Modein. He had five sons, John surnamed Gaddi, Simon called Thassi, Judas called Maccabeus, Eleazar called Avaran, and Jonathan called Apphus. He saw the blasphemies being committed in Judah and Jerusalem, and said, “Alas! Why was I born to see this, the ruin of my people, the ruin of the holy city, and to dwell there when it was given over to the enemy, the sanctuary given over to aliens? Her temple has become like a man without honor; her glorious vessels have been carried into captivity. Her babes have been killed in her streets, her youths by the sword of the foe. What nation has not inherited her palaces and has not seized her spoils? All her adornment has been taken away; no longer free, she has become a slave. And behold, our holy place, our beauty, and our glory have been laid waste; the Gentiles have profaned it. Why should we live any longer?” And Mattathias and his sons rent their clothes, put on sackcloth, and mourned greatly before the Lord!*

**Here Again His Final Warning And Blessing To His Sons Before His Death!**

Final Blessing of Mattathias Ben Yochanan Hasmonean Maccabeus

**1<sup>st</sup> Maccabees 2:49-69**

*Now the days drew near for Mattathias to die, and he said to his sons: “Arrogance and reproach have now become strong; it is a time of ruin and furious anger. Now, my children, show zeal for the law, and give your lives for the covenant of our fathers. Remember the deeds of the fathers, which they did in their generations; and receive great honor and an everlasting name. Was not Abraham found faithful when tested, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness? Joseph in the time of his distress kept the commandment and became lord of Egypt. Phinehas our father, because he was deeply zealous, received the covenant of everlasting priesthood. Joshua, because he fulfilled the command, became a judge in Israel. Caleb, because he testified in the assembly, received an inheritance in the land. David, because he was merciful, inherited the throne of the kingdom forever. Elijah because of great zeal for the law was taken up into heaven. Hannaniah, Azariah, and Mishael believed and were saved from the flame. Daniel because of his innocence was delivered from the mouth of the lions. And so, observe, from generation to generation, that none who put their trust in him will lack strength. Do not fear the words of a sinner, for his splendor will turn into dung and worms.*

*Today he will be exalted, but tomorrow he will not be found, because he has returned to the dust, and his plans will perish. My children, be courageous and grow strong in the law, for by it you will gain honor. Now behold, I know that Simeon your brother is wise in counsel; always listen to him; he shall be your father. Judas Maccabeus has been a mighty warrior from his youth; he shall command the army for you and fight the battle against the peoples. You shall rally about you all who observe the law and avenge the wrong done to your people. Pay back the Gentiles in full, and heed what the Law's commands tell you all the days of your life!"*

### RESULT

His sons heeded his words, and they began their revolt in 167 B.C. when the brothers killed the soldiers who caused the death of their father and started a revolt against their oppressor Antiochus IV. One of the sons, Judah, rose to lead the people. The family was renamed the "**Maccabeus**", meaning the "**Hammers of War**". Spurred on by their firm conviction that the God of Israel was the One True God and that He would remain Faithful to them, the Maccabees went on a **Holy Crusade!**

In the year **164 B.C.** in the Hebrew Month **Kislev (December)** they drove out the Syrians and recaptured the Temple in Jerusalem. The Maccabees and their followers quickly cleansed the altars and restored all of the holy furnishings.

Of great importance to them was the broken "**Menorah**" which symbolized the Light of God in the world. They restored it and lit it, but they only had enough holy consecrated oil to keep it lite for one day. It takes seven days for the priests to make new oil to be used for the Temple. They had a true dilemma and a true need! They decided it was better to light the "**Menorah**" anyway; at least the "**Light of God**" would shine forth immediately and His Presence would be again dwell among His people. To their amazement, the oil burned not only for one day, but for eight more days until new sacred oil could be made and consecrated on the eight day by the priests!

The Temple was restored and rededicated to the glory of the God of Israel and an eight-day holy festival was established forever. It is called "**Hanukkah**", which means "**To Dedicate**". Every year, starting on the twenty-fifth of Kislev, the Jewish community recalls the **Two-Fold Miracle: 1) The Miraculous Multiplying Oil & 2) The Miraculous Military Victory** over the overwhelming forces of evil. So, Every year, starting on the twenty-fifth of Kislev, the Jewish community begins its eight-day celebration. The holiday focuses on the "**Hanukkiah**", the eight branched "**Hanukkah Menorah**".

The usual "**Menorah**", is a traditional **Seven Branched Tree of Lights**. The "**Hanukkiah**" is a **Special Menorah** an **Eight Branched Tree of Lights with a center 9<sup>th</sup> light** to remind us of the eight-day multiplying miracle of oil that came from only a 1-day supply.

The "**Festival of Dedication & Lights**" is rekindled into flame each year. The **Center Branch of Light** (with four branches on either side) stands out. It is used to light the other candles but is not part of the eight-day miracle of multiplying the oil, is called the "**Shamash**", meaning "**Servant**". It takes God's servants in the world to shine His light and this middle candle is a reminder to us all of our part in God's divine plan as Jesus Was the Father's Servant of Light to the World! So, as Christians we are to be God's servants shining His Light to a Dark World. **Jesus Was Also God's Chosen Servant To All His People.**

## Remember Jesus' Teaching

### *We Are Light In The World Testifying To Jesus Christ, The Light Of The World*

*"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* *Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:14-16)*

### More Context

#### Let's Go Back To Jerusalem In The Last Winter Of Jesus Life

#### Jesus Is The Good Shepherd Whose Works (Signs & Wonders) Are A Sign Of the Coming of the Kingdom of God

##### 1) "I AM The Shepherd of the Sheep" – John 10:2

Jesus said, *"But He Who Enters by the Door is the Shepherd of the Sheep. To Him the Doorkeeper Opens, and the Sheep Hear His Voice; and He Calls His Own Sheep by Name and Leads Them Out. And when He Brings Out His Own Sheep, He Goes Before Them; and the Sheep Follow Him, for They Know His Voice."* John 10:2-4

##### 2) "I AM The Door Of The Sheep" – John 10:7b & 9a "The Gate Called Beautiful"

Jesus said, *"I have come that they may have Life, and that they may have Life More Abundantly!"* John 10:10b

##### 3) "I AM The Good Shepherd" – John 10:11a & 14a "The Good Shepherd gives His Life for the sheep."

*"And I know My Sheep and am known by My Own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My Life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My Voice; and there will be one flock and One Shepherd. Therefore, My Father loves Me, because I lay down My Life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."* Therefore, there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings. And many of them said, *"He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?"* Others said, *"These are not the Words of One Who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"* John 10:14-21

### Feast Of Hanukkah

##### 4) "My Sheep" – John 10:26b & 27a

*"But you do not believe, because you are not of My Sheep, as I said to you.*

*My Sheep hear My Voice, and I Know Them, and they Follow Me."* John 10:26-27

##### 5) "I and My Father are One!" – John 10:30

*." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The Works (Signs & Wonders) that I Do In My Father's Name, They (Works) Bear Witness of Me."... I and My Father are One!"*

John 10:25 & 30

Now it was the *Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah)* in Jerusalem, and it was winter. And *Jesus* walked into the *Temple*, in *Solomon's Portico*. Then the Jews surrounded *Jesus* and said to *Him*, *"How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."* *Jesus* answered them, *"I told you, and you do not believe. The Works (Signs & Wonders) that I Do In My Father's Name, They (Works) Bear Witness of Me. But you do not believe, because you are not of My Sheep, as I said to you. My Sheep hear My Voice, and I Know Them, and they Follow Me. And I Give Them Eternal Life, and They shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch Them Out Of My Hand..."*

... *My Father, Who has given Them to Me, Is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch Them Out Of My Father's Hand. I and My Father are One!*" Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. John 10:22-31 (NKJV)

6) "Father Is In Me, and I In Him!" – John 10:38b

Jesus said to all the people gathered & the religious leaders, "Do you say of Him Whom the Father Sanctified and Sent Into the World, 'You Are Blaspheming,' because I said, 'I AM the Son of God'? If I Do Not Do the Works of My Father, Do Not Believe Me; but If I Do (His Works), though you do not believe Me, believe the Works, that you may know and believe that the Father Is In Me, and I In Him!" John 10:36-38

Back To The Immediate CONTEXT In The Temple

7) Healing Is Only Found In Jesus' Name

Q: "What Must One Do To Receive Healing From God?"

A: Have Faith In The Name Of God Only Son, Jesus Christ

So, when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "*Men of Israel, why do you Marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of Our Fathers, Has Glorified His Servant Jesus, Whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. But you denied the Holy & Just One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Prince of Life (Author of Life), Whom God Raised From the Dead, of which We are Witnesses. And In Him, Through Faith in His Name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the Faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all!*" Acts 3:13-16

Q: "What Does Faith In Jesus Christ Lead To?"

A: Repentance, Forgiveness, & Restoration Of Relationship In His Name!

Peter continued, "Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But those things which God Foretold by the Mouth of All His Prophets, that the Christ Would Suffer, He has thus Fulfilled. Repent therefore and Be Converted, that Your Sins May Be Blotted Out, so that Times of Refreshing may come from the Presence of the Lord, and that He May Send Jesus Christ, Who Was Preached to you before, Whom Heaven must receive until the Times Of Restoration of All Things, which God Has Spoken by the Mouth of All His Holy Prophets since the World began." Acts 3:17-21

Q: "What Does This New Restoration Of Relationship With God Lead To?"

A: The Living Proof That Jesus Christ Is God's Son In The Flesh In These Last Days

Peter Continued, "For Moses truly said to the Fathers, 'The Lord Your God Will Raise Up for You a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him You Shall Hear in All Things, whatever He Says to You. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.' Yes, and All the Prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also Foretold These Days." Acts 3:22-24

Q: "What Does A Restored Relationship With God Through His Son, Jesus Christ Bring To His People?"

A: Adoption Into God's Family In Jesus' Name

A: Continued Blessing To Others In Jesus' Name

*“You are Sons of the Prophets, and of the Covenant which God Made with Our Fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And In Your Seed all the Families of the Earth shall be Blessed.’ To you first, God, Having Raised Up His Servant Jesus, Sent Him to Bless You, in Turning Away every one of you from Your Iniquities.”*

*Acts 3:25-26*

**Q:** *“What Happens When You Become A Blessing To Others By Your Witness To Jesus Christ?”*

**A:** *They Find Faith & Salvation In Jesus’ Name & Become A Part Of God’s Family With You*

*“Many of Those Who Heard the Word Believed, And the Number of the Men came to be about Five Thousand!”*

*Acts 4:4*

### **LET US BE RESOLVED**

*“Let Us Today & Tomorrow*

*Be Obedient Servants & Bold Witnesses In This Life  
To The Blessing, Forgiveness, & Healing That Only Comes  
In The Name of Jesus Christ, The Lord!”*