

Hanukkah – Importance and Origins

- The author will provide an overview of Hanukkah and address common misconceptions.
- There are some in the Messianic movement that condemn the celebration of Hanukkah, while Christians argue that it is not for them.
- The author promises that by the end of the lecture, attendees will never stop celebrating Hanukkah.
- It is crucial to understand the importance of Hanukkah in the current time.
- Celebrating Hanukkah has become more popular in the last 20 to 30 years.
- The ministry not only promotes the celebration of Hanukkah but also explains the spiritual reasons behind it.
- The title of the lesson is "Hanukkah – The Cure for Hellenism."
- The author warns that the beginning of the class might be boring as they need to break down certain concepts.
- The author needs to unlearn everything the attendees have learned before they can start teaching.
- The ministry takes time to establish a foundation before imparting new knowledge.
- The graphic on the screen shows the land of Israel, which is smaller than New York.
- At one time, the entire Earth was one land mass before Yahweh divided it.
- The author suggests that if the continents were brought back together, they would fit like a jigsaw puzzle.

The History of Israel and its Importance

- Israel, despite its small land size, has historically been a highly coveted piece of land by various empires throughout world history.
- The Persian Empire, as seen in the provided graphic, included the land of Israel within its territory.
- Israel has been ruled by multiple empires, including the Assyrians, Babylonians, and Persians.
- These empires had a hands-off approach to Israel, allowing them to maintain their religion, culture, and food.
- Alexander the Great, depicted in the image, played a significant role in the fall of Israel, starting in 332 BC.

Hellenization and its Impact

- Hellenization refers to the spread of Greek culture and influence, particularly by Alexander the Great and his conquests.

- Hellenization was a cultural process that involved the adoption of Greek language, customs, and way of life in conquered territories.
- The Olympics originated from Greek culture and are an example of the influence of Hellenization.
- Hellenization also included a love for sports, such as the Greeks' passion for athletics.
- Hellenization had both positive and negative effects, with the risk of losing one's own cultural identity and values.
- Hellenization can be compared to modern examples like being "Americanized" or "Mexicanized," where adopting certain aspects of another culture may change one's behavior or worldview.

The Conquests of Alexander the Great and the Division of the Greek Empire

- Alexander the Great conquered the entire world by the age of 32.
- After Alexander's death, his empire was divided among his four generals.
- The year that Alexander rode through Jerusalem was 332 BC.
- This event is the reason for the celebration of Hanukkah.
- The divided Greek Empire consisted of four kingdoms - Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt, Seleucid Kingdom, Kingdom of Pergamon, and Macedon.
- Despite the division, these kingdoms remained Hellenized.

The High Priest and the Zadokite Priesthood in Israel

- All business in Jerusalem was handled in the temple after the death of the Great.
- The high priest served as both the political and religious leader of the nation.
- The high priest had complete governance over the land of Israel, handling both religious and secular matters.
- The Jewish temple served as the government seat, similar to the capital in Washington.
- The temple was where laws were made, and the Pharisees and Sadducees held their meetings.
- The high priest belonged to the Zadokite priesthood, which governed the Temple of Yahweh.
- Israel was unique in that they were monotheistic, believing in only one God.
- Israel lived holy and separated lives from the world, with their own language given to them by Yahweh.
- In Ezekiel 44:15, the Levites, except for the sons of Zadok, were no longer allowed to serve in the temple.
- The Levites were being replaced due to their disobedience to Yahweh's commandments.

- Zadok, a faithful priest, remained loyal to the Sabbath and the commandments, leading to him and his descendants becoming the only recognized authority over the temple.
- When Alexander the Great came to Jerusalem, one of the high priests was from the Zadokite priesthood.
- According to Ezekiel 48:11, the sanctified sons of Zadok were the only priests recognized by Yahweh, as the Levites had gone astray from his commandments.

Legitimate Leadership and Recognizing Authority

- Legitimate leadership is recognized by God and should be submitted to.
- God appoints leaders and gives them authority, it cannot be self-appointed.
- Usurped authority is not legitimate and should not be honored.
- Joe Biden is seen as a usurper and not a legitimate leader.
- The Holy Ghost allows for discernment of true leadership.
- No evidence is needed to recognize when something is not right.
- God will eventually bring justice, even if it takes time.
- God only recognizes legitimacy and not deception.
- The Seleucid Empire captured Jerusalem in 198 BC, 100 years after Alexander's conquest.

The Impact of Empires on Cultural and National Identity

- Satan's influence is gradual, not sudden, as he sends a strong delusion over time.
- Hellenization took a century to infiltrate minds, facilitated by Alexander the Great's conquest in 198 BC.
- Hanukkah is a prophetic celebration reflecting current events at the end of the world.
- In 198 BC, Israel was taken over by the Seleucid Empire, while they were occupied with fighting Egypt.
- Empires assimilate nations into their Commonwealths, similar to the United States' control over 50 states.
- State identities, like Kentucky, are slowly replaced by an American identity due to empire influence.
- Losing Southern or regional identity is a consequence of being Americanized by the empire.
- Empires mock and diminish the value of regional identities while promoting the superiority of the empire.
- The British Commonwealth similarly integrates nations like Jamaica, leading to a loss of individual cultural identity.

- Success within the empire requires adopting the dominant language and shedding one's unique identity.
- Financial success often relies on assimilating into the empire's cultural norms and language.

Hellenization and Identity in the Empire

- In order to succeed in the Empire, one must become Amalgamated and part of the whole.
- Southern identity is slowly fading away, especially among the younger generation who are ashamed of it.
- Hellenization, the process of adopting Greek culture and language, is the cure for losing one's identity.
- Speaking the Greek language is significant as it affects the way one thinks and communicates.
- Those who resist assimilation may be hated by others but remain true believers.
- The language of hellenization includes gossip, spreading accusation, and running others down.
- Alexander's conquest of Jerusalem brought the allure of Greek culture and language.
- Listening to how someone speaks can indicate their alignment with one's own people and identity.
- Hellenization was mainly sought by the upper class in Jerusalem who desired to be part of the dominant culture.

The Impact of Hellenism on God's People

- Hellenism mainly appealed to the wealthy priests, merchants, and aristocrats in Greece, but outside of Jerusalem, the country and Galilee, the people, particularly the fishermen, were not as impressed.
- Hellenism was not forced upon God's people, but rather enticed them. Israelites were impressed with the culture, holidays, language, sports, theaters, and beauty of Greece.
- The Greeks celebrated different holidays than Passover, such as Andsu Estate, which seemed more appealing and fun to the Israelites.
- The desire of Yahweh's people was not to become Greeks, but to be accepted and cool with the Greeks. They wanted to fit in and not stand out, as they were tired of being different.
- The year 175 BC was a turning point because of a coup led by Antiochus Epiphanes, who took over the Seleucid Empire. This moment was only possible after 200 years of conditioning the minds of God's people.

- Onias III, the legitimate Zadokite high priest and the great grandfather of John the Baptist, was replaced by Antiochus Epiphanes.
- Antiochus Epiphanes is referred to as the Antichrist and his ascension to the throne marked a significant change in the situation for God's people.

The Replacement of Onias III and the Voice of Truth

- General solution did not convert the Jewish people to Hellenism quickly enough.
- Empire Jerusalem needs to take Israel, which has been conditioned for 200 years.
- The legitimate leader, Onias III, must be destroyed to obtain the Temple.
- Onias III is the great-grandfather of John the Baptist, the legitimate high priest.
- Onias III was replaced by Joshua, who was in league with Antiochus, the Antichrist.
- The voice of the Antichrist always replaces the voice of truth in the church.
- Putting their own preachers in the pulpit started the destruction of churches.
- Joshua changes his name to Jason to be less Jewish.