Unleashing the Old Testament

with Alan Gilman
Bible Teacher

Session 20

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The Intertestamental Period

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The Intertestamental Period: Hanukkah

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Happy Hanukkah

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Hanukkah (חֲנֻכָּה)

- "Dedication"
- Hanukkah or Chanukah?
- 25th of Kislev (November/December)

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Hanukkah (חֲנֻכָּה)

History

- 1 Maccabees
- Approx. 165 BC
- Seleucid (Syrian/Greek) empire under Antiochus Epiphanes
- Assimilation forces / many Jews submit
- Torah study forbidden; temple desecrated

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Hanukkah (חֲנֻכָּה)

History

- Maccabean revolt
- Cleansing and rededication of temple
- Eight-day festival (Sukkot/Tabernacles)
- Limited period of autonomy
- Mentioned in John 10:22ff

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Hanukkah (חֲנֻכָּה)

Contemporary Celebrations

- Prayers & songs
- Latkes (potato pancakes) & sufganiyot (jellied donuts)

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Hanukkah (חֲנֻכָּה)

The Dreidel

ש	ה	ג	נ
sham	hayah	gadol	nes
there	happened	great	miracle

A great miracle happened there!

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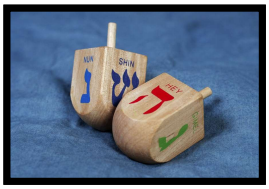
Hanukkah (חֲנֻכָּה)

The Dreidel



פ	ה	ג	נ
po	hayah	gadol	nes
here	happened	great	miracle

A great miracle happened here!

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Hanukkah (חֲנֻכָּה)

The Hanukkah Miracle

- The legend of the oil
- Al Hanissim

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Hanukkah (חֲנֻכָּה)

The Importance of Hanukkah

- The continuance of the Jewish people
- Influential event for 2nd Temple period
- Example of faith in action
- Boldness

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Some final thoughts

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The OT Is Foundational to the NT

"All Scripture"

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:14–17)

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The OT Is Foundational to the NT

Our examples

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. (1 Corinthians 10:6–11)

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Reality/Truth Through Narrative

- Note: narrative isn't necessarily fiction
- NT continues this
- Jesus taught and answered questions with story
- Beware of theology (teachings) that are disconnected from biblical narrative
- Reading vs. analysis

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The Grand Theme: Renewal & Restoration

- The renewal of creation
- Restoration of Israel
  (the people and the land)

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