



**DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?**

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING TO US

- At this time of year, followers of Jesus around the world celebrate Christmas, recognizing the miraculous birth of a baby in a manger in Bethlehem, God with us.
- However, that same Jesus, as a Jewish man, would not have celebrated Christmas each winter. He would have celebrated **Hanukkah**, the Festival of Lights, also known as the **Feast of Dedication**.



How did Jesus celebrate Hanukkah?

Why did Jesus celebrate Hanukkah?

**DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?**

Timeline of Writing of Bible Books

Old Testament	Genesis	ca. 1446 BC
	Micah	ca. 740-710 BC
	Isaiah	ca. 700-680 BC
	Hosea	ca. 715 BC
	Jeremiah	ca. 580 BC
	Malachi	ca. 450 BC
New Testament	James	ca. 45 AD
	Mark	ca. 50-70 AD
	Luke	ca. 59-63 AD
	Colossians	ca. 60-62 AD
	Matthew	ca. 70-80 AD
	John	ca. 80-95 AD

Intertestamental Period

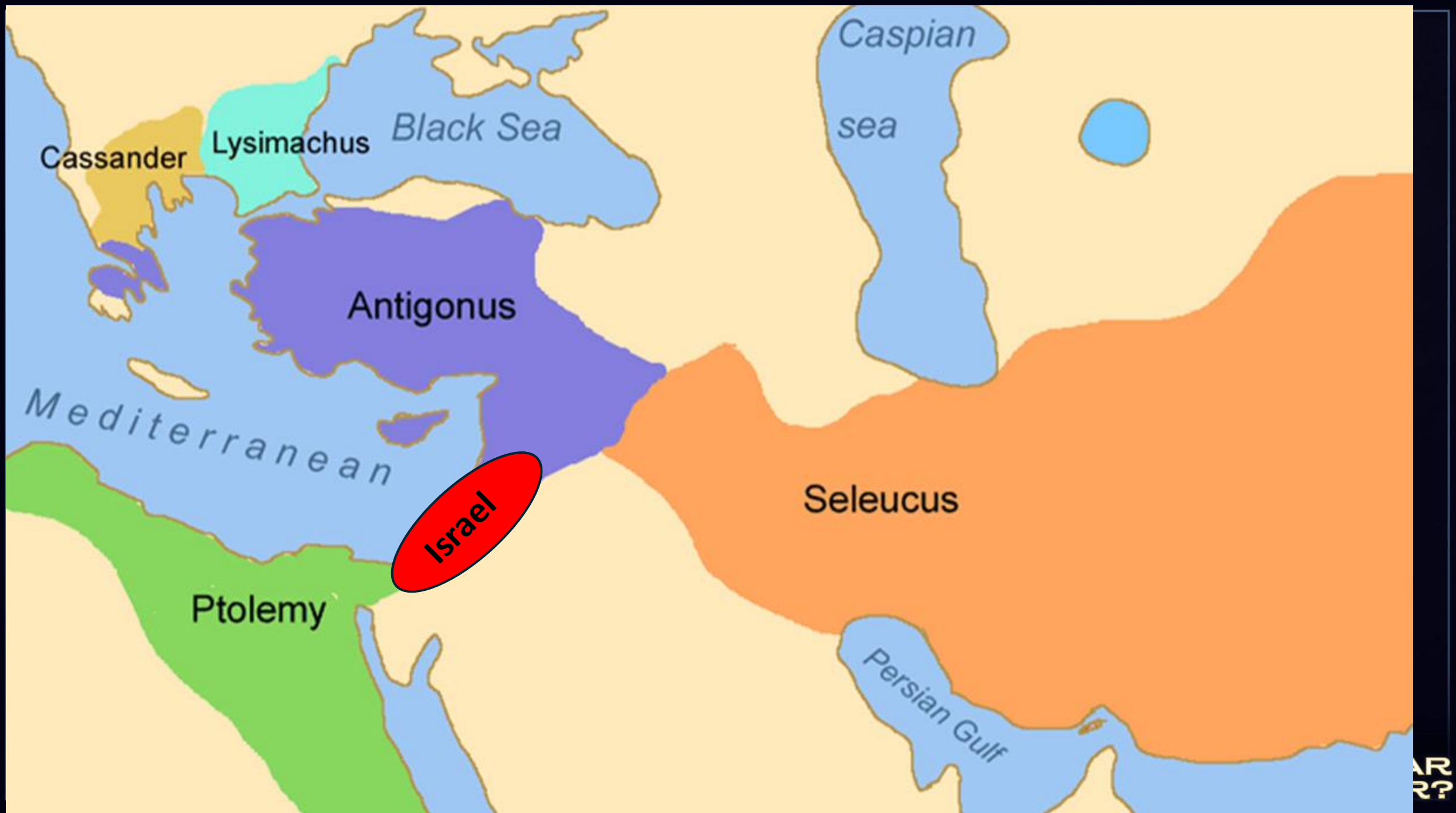
Birth of Jesus occurred in
approx. 4 BC

**DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?**

After Alexander the Great's death in 323 BC, his empire fractured into four kingdoms, two of which dominated the biblical world: the Ptolemies in Egypt and the Seleucids in Syria.



DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?



A Seleucid emperor named Antiochus IV attacked Jerusalem in 167 BC and killed 40,000 Jews and sold another 40,000 Jews into slavery.





Antiochus IV banned all Jewish traditions, feast days, kosher laws, customs, study of Torah, circumcision, and anything else held holy by the Jewish people upon penalty of death. He set up a statue of Zeus in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, the first abomination of desolation, and defiled the Temple by sacrificing pigs and other pagan offerings on the altar.

**DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?**

The Maccabean revolt began in the town of Modiin and was led by the five sons of the elderly Jewish priest named Mattityahu, and especially his third son named Judas Maccabeus (“the Hammer”).



DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

The climax of the Maccabean revolt occurred when they successfully captured Jerusalem. This event is central to the Hanukkah story, as the Maccabees retook the Temple. They tore down the foreign gods, and restored some of the lost sacred artifacts. As the Temple was being cleansed, they debated about what to do with the altar, which Antiochus had used to sacrifice people and unclean animals. Instead of destroying it or washing it, they decided to dismantle it, set the stones aside, and wait for a prophet to instruct them on what to do. In its place, they erected a new altar.



www.christianityisjewish.org/hanukkah-jewish-struggle-for-freedom

**DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?**

- According to history, when the Jews regained control of the Temple on the 25th day of Kislev, they found in it just one cruse (jar) of olive oil. The oil was sufficient to keep the seven branched temple lamp stand (menorah) burning only one day. Miraculously however, the oil burned for eight days.
- According to Scripture, it takes a week to ritually purify oil. But more importantly, God also mandated eight days for the Feast of Tabernacles.
- On that holiday (Sukkot), the Jewish people dedicated both the first and second Temples to God. The original Hanukkah (Hebrew word meaning “Dedication”) was actually celebrated as a type of delayed Feast of Tabernacles, to rededicate the Temple.
- Why did they have to wait 8 days for oil? We read in Numbers 19:11, “The one who touches the corpse of any person shall be unclean for seven days.”

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

Why was the menorah so important?

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Command the sons of Israel that they bring to you clear oil from beaten olives for the light, to make a lamp burn continually. Outside the veil of testimony in the tent of meeting, Aaron shall keep it in order from evening to morning before the Lord continually; it shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations. He shall keep the lamps in order on the pure gold lampstand before the Lord continually.” Leviticus 24:1-4

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

When Judas Maccabeus and his followers retook Jerusalem, the Temple was in ruins. The altars were desecrated, the lamps extinguished, the air still thick with the memory of foreign gods. But on that winter day, Kislev 25, they rebuilt the altar, purified the courts, and lit the lamps once more. The darkness that had hung over the Temple was broken by flame — not the light of superstition, but of restored worship. Hanukkah means “dedication,” and that’s exactly what happened: God’s people dedicated themselves and their place of worship to Him. For eight days they celebrated, not because of a jar of oil that burned too long, but because they were alive again as a worshiping nation. Historians record that they filled the Temple with enormous lamps and sang psalms of thanksgiving, lighting up Jerusalem like a beacon in the night. They called it the “Festival of Lights.” The name wasn’t about candles; it was about deliverance — light breaking through years of oppression and fear. God had once again proven Himself faithful. — Pastor Mike Fabarez

**DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?**

Hanukkah, the eight-day Festival
of Dedication, begins on the
25th day of the month of Kislev.

TONIGHT at sundown!

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

Celebrating the Light

- The menorah (hanukkiah) is lit each night of Hanukkah. On the first night, a single flame is lit. On the second, another flame is lit. Until, on the eighth and final night of Hanukkah, 8 flames are burning bright.
- The menorah is lit after sundown (except on Friday, when it is lit before the Shabbat candles) and must burn until at least a half-hour after nightfall.
- Blessings (prayers) are said while holding the shamash, immediately before the Hanukkah menorah is lit.

**Jesus of Nazareth
celebrated this holiday**

John 10

**DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?**

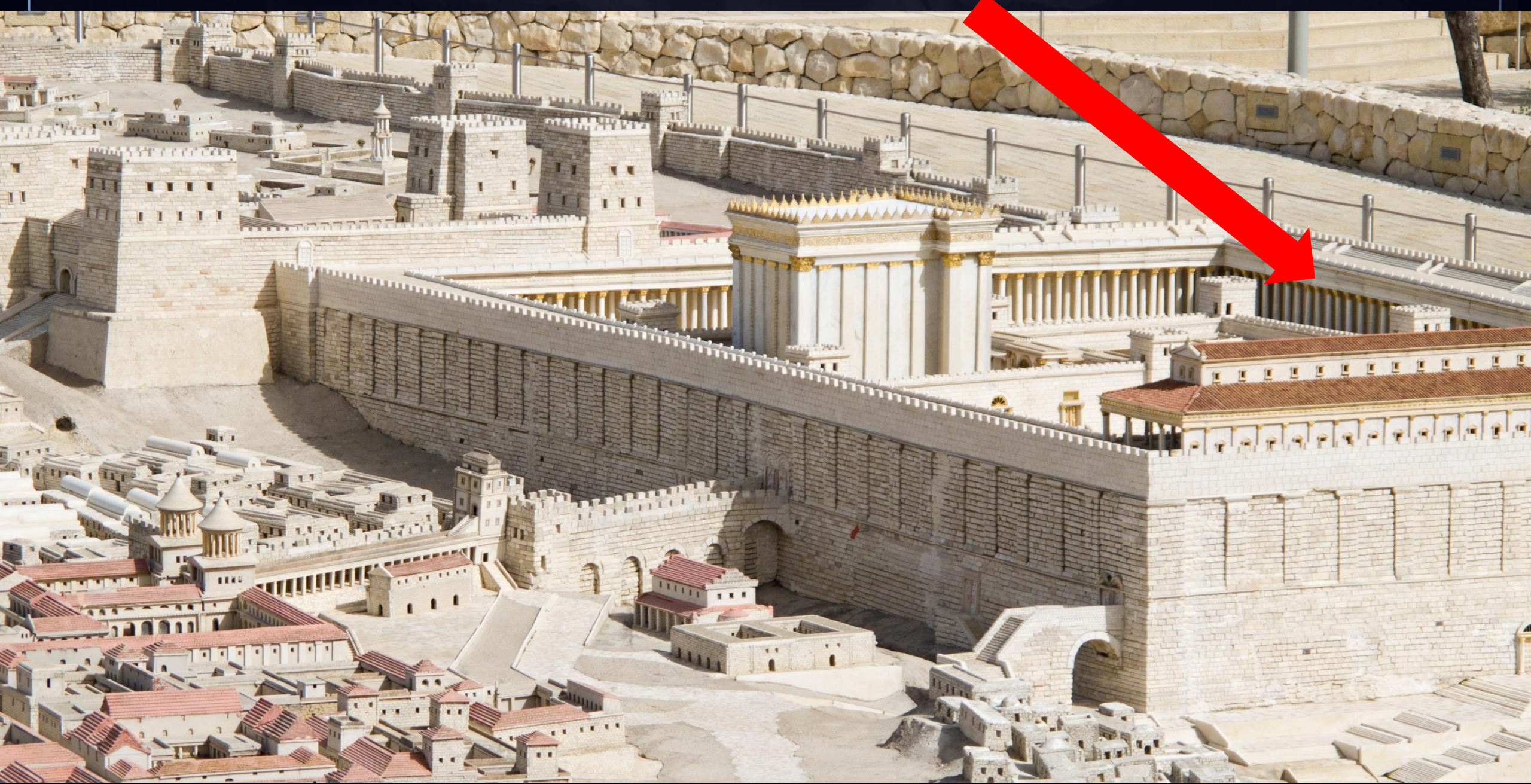
(Around 29 or 30 AD)

At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; John 10:22

- “Dedication” in Greek is the word *egkainia* ἐγκαίνια; in Hebrew the word is hanukkah חֲנֻכָּה
- John’s gospel is the earliest mention of Hanukkah in all literature
- This holiday is mentioned in the Bible only in the New Testament in the context of the ministry of Jesus
- Jesus traveled from Galilee to Jerusalem to celebrate Hanukkah

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon. John 10:23



SOLOMON'S COLONNADE

Jesus was
walking in
the temple
in the
portico
[στοά *stoa*]
of
Solomon.
John 10:23



© GEOFF ROBINSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Now we know WHERE this conversation took place (Solomon's Portico in the Temple in Jerusalem) and WHEN this conversation took place (during the Festival of Hanukkah in the winter)...

The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ [Messiah], tell us plainly." John 10:24

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

They were standing on the very stones that once ran red with sacrifice — stones laid by men who had fought for the purity of God's worship. Yet they were blind to the one those sacrifices had foreshadowed.

— Pastor Mike Fabarez



- Jesus was asked this question near the Eastern gate of the Temple Mount, the place where Ezekiel prophesied that the Messiah would enter Jerusalem.
- Then He brought me back by the way of the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces the east; and it was shut. The Lord said to me, “This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it, for the Lord God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut.” Ezekiel 44:1-2 (written approx. 590 B.C.)

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

What did Jesus teach on Hanukkah?

Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, these testify of Me.” John 10:25

- If Jesus really was the Messiah they reasoned, He had the power to preserve the Jewish people from the tyranny of the Romans, just as God had preserved them from evil Antiochus 200 years earlier.

- <https://jewsforjesus.org/publications/newsletter/newsletter-dec-1998/christ-in-the-feast-of-hanukkah//>

- It was not lack of information but lack of willingness to believe.

— Wycliffe Bible Commentary

**DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?**

The popular picture of the Messiah in Jesus' time was that He would be a "super-Maccabee," a warrior who would destroy Israel's enemies and bring in everlasting peace. What better time than Hanukkah to ask Jesus to "come right out with it" if He were the Messiah, and to show it by His actions.

Jesus' response was that He already made it clear by His actions, which were not those of a super-Maccabee but of a healer and teacher. Jesus was the kind of Messiah who, rather than destroying Rome, went to His death to atone for our sins and subsequently rose from the dead.

Jesus answered them, “But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.” John 10:26-28

- For Jesus to have said less than to affirm that He was the Son of God would have been to speak an untruth. – Wycliffe Bible Commentary
- They were looking for salvation from an earthly deliverer from earthly problems. Jesus spoke of eternal life. – Doug Hershey

**DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?**

Then Jesus said the words that drew the line between belief and unbelief: “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27). That’s the difference between religion and relationship. The Pharisees had memorized the Law but couldn’t recognize the Shepherd standing before them. The true sheep, Jesus said, are those who not only hear His voice, but follow it. In one breath, He bridged the story of Hanukkah to the story of salvation. The faithful once fought to preserve the worship of God in a temple made with hands. Now the Son of God had come to make worshipers out of living temples — men and women whose hearts belong fully to Him.

— Pastor Mike Fabarez

**DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?**

Jesus answered them, “My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.” John 10:29-30

- “I and the Father are one”... this was the “plain answer” that the religious leaders had asked for.
- Shema prayer: Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad (The Lord is our God, the Lord is One)
- The Father and the Son are not identical persons, they are one in essence: the Father is God and the Son is God, but the Father is not the Son and the Son is not the Father. He is speaking about unity, not identity. – Bible Exposition Commentary

**DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?**

The Jews [some of the unbelievers in Judea] picked up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, “I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?” The Jews answered Him, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.” John 10:31-33

*Fresh in the people’s minds was the fact that they had rightly rejected the false claims of Antiochus. Now here is Jesus, standing in the Temple asserting His own claim to deity. The reaction of the people was predictable. And if He hadn’t been who He claimed to be, they would have been absolutely right to do so.

- <https://jewsforjesus.org/publications/newsletter/newsletter-dec-1998/christ-in-the-feast-of-hanukkah//>

**DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?**

Jesus gave a history lesson from Psalm 82

Jesus answered them, “Has it not been written in the (your) Law [Tanakh], ‘I said, you are gods’ [see Psalm 82:6]? If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), 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’?” John 10:34-36

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

Jesus answered them, “If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.” John 10:37-38

- During the Hanukkah season of remembering miracles, Jesus pointed out to His listeners that the miracles He had done authenticated His claim that He was, indeed, the long-awaited Jewish Messiah. His works and His true character clearly demonstrated who He was.

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/Hanukkah-Christian.html>

**DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?**

Therefore they were seeking again to seize Him, and He eluded their grasp. John 10:39

- During Hanukkah, the people in the days of Jesus and the people today are confronted with the same fundamental question.
- Is Jesus really the promised Messiah sent to save all mankind?

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

**In the darkest times of the year,
what do we need?**

**In the darkest times of our lives,
what do we need?**

**In the darkest places of the world,
what do we need?**

**DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?**

The Israeli Defense Force (IDF) released video footage showing six Israeli hostages lighting Hanukkah candles at the bottom of a Hamas tunnel, just weeks before their murder in August 2024. They had been held as hostages for almost one year after their capture on October 7, 2023. These images, obtained from materials seized in the Gaza Strip, offer a direct glimpse into their life in captivity.

The footage reveals Hersh Goldberg-Polin, Eden Yerushalmi, Ori Danino, Alex Lubanov, Almog Sarusi, and Carmel Gat, filmed in extreme conditions. Despite the darkness of the tunnel and the evident presence of their captors, the six hostages appear standing, lighting the candles for the Hanukkah holiday, a gesture filled with dignity and spirituality at the heart of their captivity.

According to information released before the official publication, the hostages were filmed for long hours, presumably by their Hamas captors, who kept these recordings for reasons still unknown. The release of these videos by the Israeli army provides raw testimony to the underground reality of the captivity imposed by Hamas.

- I24 News

**DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?**

**From top left, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, Ori Danino, Eden Yerushalmi
From bottom left, Almog Sarusi, Alexander Lobanov, Carmel Gat**



**DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?**

Prayer for the first night of Hanukkah

Hebrew Text:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֶחַיָּנוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְמַן הַזֶּה.

Transliteration:

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higiyanu laz'man hazeh.

Translation:

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who
has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

**In the midst of a world full of spiritual darkness,
as Christmas approaches, as Hanukkah begins,
the world needs the light of God**

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying...

**“I am the Light of the world; he who
follows Me will not walk in the
darkness, but will have the Light of life.”**

John 8:12

**DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?**

Jesus, our Messiah, is the Light of God

Hanukkah is celebrated using a special Hanukkah menorah with nine lights or candles. One uses a match to light the *shammash* (“servant”), and it is then employed to light one candle the first night, two the second, and so on until on the eighth night all eight lights and the *shammash* are burning brightly.

For followers of Jesus the imagery is rich: Yeshua, the “light of the world” (John 8:12), came as a servant (Mark 10:45) to give light to everyone (John 1:4–5), so that we might be lights to others (Matthew 5:14).

– Jewish New Testament Commentary

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