

EIGHT DAYS - THE GLORY OF YHVH GROWS BRIGHTER



Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

This is a product of *Kanaan Ministries*, a non-profit ministry under the covering of:

- Roly, Amanda's husband for more than forty years.
- Pastor Edward Gibbens
Vanderbijlpark
South Africa

*There is no copyright on this material. However, no part may be reproduced and/or presented for **personal** gain. All rights to this material are reserved to further the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ **ONLY**.*

For further information or to place an order, please contact us at:

P.O. Box 15253
Panorama
7506
Cape Town
South Africa

27 John Vorster Avenue
Platteklouf Ext. 1
Panorama 7500
Cape Town
South Africa

Tel: +27 (0) 21 930 7577
Fax: 086 681 9458
E-mail: kanaan@iafrica.com
Website: www.kanaanministries.org

Office hours: Monday to Friday, 9 AM to 3 PM

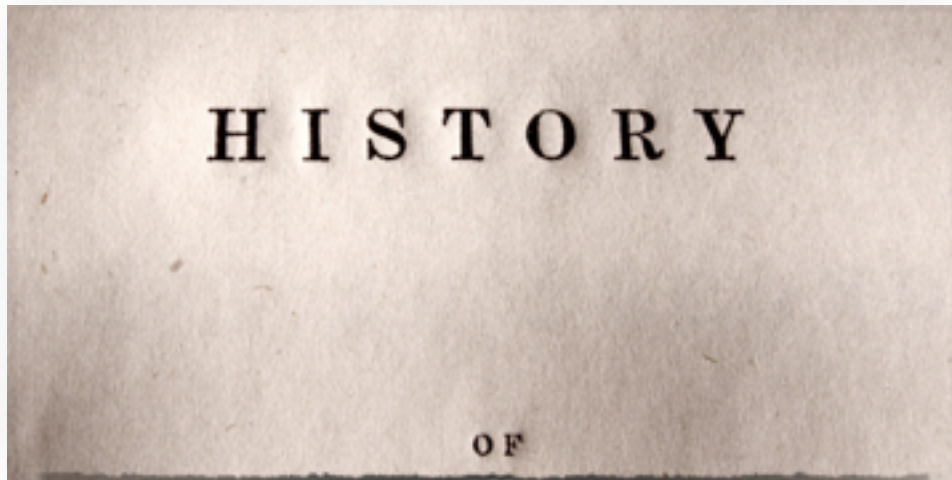
Kanaan International Website

Website: www.eu.kanaanministries.org

EIGHT DAYS WHERE THE GLORY OF YHVH GROWS BRIGHTER EVERY DAY

The story behind the story is recorded in very few places, mainly by Jewish authors where a certain amount of bias will be a reality of the truth of the actual facts.

Some of the history, namely, the war of Alexander the Great, is recorded for us in other sources, and thus we have some idea of both the **time** and the **circumstances** that define this event.



BACKGROUND

I have taken rather long pieces out of the **Book of Maccabees**, in order to sketch the framework within which this event occurs. Tradition has formulated much of the celebration, the songs and the actions that people associate with this Feast.

Some of this tradition is to celebrate:

- ◆ The **victory** of the few over the many,
- ◆ The **restoration** of the Holiness of the Tabernacle,
- ◆ The **miracle** of the oil.

And these are all very nice stories, but the version of the story in the Book of John speaks of the Festival of Light¹. And Y'shua would not be looking at the **physical aspects** of the victory, but of the **spiritual reality** of the Light from the Menorah.

¹ Chanukah / Hanukah – different spelling but same Festival of Lights.

Consider for a moment that these are some of the other events that Y'shua speaks to just before this particular story where the Festival of Light is described:

- ◆ The man born blind can see, (**John 9:1-12**)
- ◆ The difference between true vision and true blindness, (**John 9:35-41**)
- ◆ Y'shua, the Good Shepherd (**John 10:1-6**)

And in these stories, one verse stands out as words that should be studied daily, words **that challenge mankind to ascertain whether we “see” with insight / wisdom and understanding**, or whether we see but are blind to the circumstances that surround us.

John 9:39 Yeshua said, “It is to judge that I came into this world, so that **those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind.**”

The story ...

1 Maccabees 1: “¹ Now it came to pass, after that Alexander the son of Philip the Macedonian, who first reigned in Greece, coming out of the land of Cethim, had overthrown Darius king of the Persians and Medes: ² He fought many battles, and took the strong holds of all, and slew the kings of the earth: ³ And he went through even to the ends of the earth, and took the spoils of many nations: and the earth was quiet before him. ⁴ And he gathered a power, and a very strong army: and his heart was exalted and lifted up. ⁵ And he subdued countries of nations, and princes: and they became tributaries to him. ⁶ And after these things, he fell down upon his bed, and knew that he should die. ⁷ And he called his servants the nobles that were brought up with him from his youth: and he divided his kingdom among them, while he was yet alive. ⁸ And Alexander reigned twelve years, and he died. ⁹ And his servants made themselves kings every one in his place: ¹⁰ And they all put crowns upon themselves after his death, and their sons after them many years, and evils were multiplied in the earth.

(We will come back to these other verses in a moment.)

²⁰ And he took the strong cities in the land of Egypt: and he took the spoils of the land of Egypt. ²¹ And after Antiochus had ravaged Egypt in the hundred and forty-third year, he returned and went up against Israel. ²² And he went up to Jerusalem with a great multitude.”



A REVOLT OR CIVIL WAR?

As we read this portion out of the book of Maccabees, we can certainly see the ruler that had been placed over Judea did not rule with integrity, and very soon we find another description, which describes the horror of a dictator.

1 Maccabees 1:22 *“²² And he went up to Jerusalem with a great multitude. ²³ And he proudly entered into the sanctuary, and took away the golden altar, and the candlestick of light, and all the vessels thereof, and the table of proposition, and the pouring vessels, and the vials, and the little mortars of gold, and the veil, and the crowns, and the golden ornament that was before the temple: and he broke them all in pieces. ²⁴ And he took the silver and gold, and the precious vessels: and he took the hidden treasures which he found: and when he had taken all away he departed into his own country. ²⁵ And he made a great slaughter of men, and spoke very proudly. ²⁶ And there was great mourning in Israel, and in every place where they were. ²⁷ And the princes, and the ancients mourned, and the virgins and the young men were made feeble, and the beauty of the women was changed. ²⁸ Every bridegroom took up lamentation: and the bride that sat in the marriage bed, mourned: ²⁹ And the land was moved for the inhabitants thereof, and all the house of Jacob was covered with confusion. ³⁰ And after two full years the king sent the chief collector of his tributes to the cities of Juda, and he came to Jerusalem with a great multitude. ³¹ And he spoke to them peaceable words in deceit: and they believed him. ³² And he fell upon the city suddenly, and struck it with a great slaughter, and destroyed much people in Israel. ³³ And he took the spoils of the city, and burnt it with fire, and threw down the houses thereof, and the walls thereof round about: ³⁴ And they took the women captive, and the children, and the cattle they possessed. ³⁵ And they built the city of David with a great and strong wall, and with strong towers, and made it a fortress for them.”*

And so we can see that everything that was “holy / pure” and which represented the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, has been desecrated. Sadly, it seems, that some of the children of Israel back-slide – they had already shifted their allegiance to other forms of idols / foreign gods, and consequently decided to take on another idol in order to fit in - to prosper - to become successful in this world. They exchange their “set apart” lifestyle serving YHVH to blend into a world system.

1 Maccabees 1:12-15 *“¹² In those days there went out of Israel wicked men, and they persuaded many, saying: Let us go, and make a covenant with the heathens that are round about us: for since we departed from them, many evils have befallen us. ¹³ And the word seemed good in their eyes. ¹⁴ And some of the people determined to do this, and went to the king: and he gave them license to do after the ordinances of the heathens. ¹⁵ And they built a place of exercise in Jerusalem, according to the laws of the nations: ¹⁶ And they made themselves prepuces, and departed from the holy covenant, and joined themselves to the heathens, and were sold to do evil.”*

THE WORLD SYSTEM GROWS MORE EVIL BY THE DAY

The Land of Israel had been the fulfilment of God's promise made many years before to Abraham.

The focus / pinnacle of the promise was the fact the Jerusalem would be:

1. God's City,
2. A Holy Tabernacle,
3. A beacon of light in a dark world.

However, the children of Israel will compromise with the Canaanites that stayed behind in the land. They will turn away from the true Godly worship of YHWH and begin to worship the pagan idols / gods of the Canaanites, with the result God would judge the sin and allow a foreign nation to rule over them, putting them under severe bondage.

But the consequences are severe.

1 Maccabees 1:35 *"³⁵ And they built the city of David with a great and strong wall, and with strong towers, and made it a fortress for them: ³⁶ And they placed there a sinful nation, wicked men, and they fortified themselves therein: and they stored up armour, and victuals, and gathered together the spoils of Jerusalem;*

³⁷ And laid them up there: and they became a great snare ³⁸ And this was a place to lie in wait against the sanctuary, and an evil devil in Israel. ³⁹ And they shed innocent blood round about the sanctuary, and defiled the holy place.

⁴⁰ And the inhabitants of Jerusalem fled away by reason of them, and the city was made the habitation of strangers, and she became a stranger to her own seed, and her children forsook her. ⁴¹ Her sanctuary was desolate like a wilderness, her festival days were turned into mourning, her sabbaths into reproach, her honours were brought to nothing. ⁴² Her dishonour was increased according to her glory, and her excellency was turned into mourning. ⁴³ And king Antiochus wrote to all his kingdom, that all the people should be one: and every one should leave his own law. ⁴⁴ And all nations consented according to the word of king Antiochus. ⁴⁵ And many of Israel consented to his service, and they sacrificed to idols, and profaned the sabbath. ⁴⁶ And the king sent letters by the hands of messengers to Jerusalem, and to all the cities of Juda: that they should follow the law of the nations of the earth, ⁴⁷ And should forbid holocausts and sacrifices, and atonements to be made in the temple of God. ⁴⁸ And should prohibit the sabbath, and the festival days, to be celebrated. ⁴⁹ And he commanded the holy places to be profaned, and the holy people of Israel.



⁵⁰ And he commanded altars to be built, and temples, and idols, and swine's flesh to be immolated, and unclean beasts. ⁵¹ And that they should leave their children uncircumcised, and let their souls be defiled with all uncleannesses, and abominations, to the end that they should forget the law, and should change all the justifications of God. ⁵² And that whosoever would not do according to the word of king Antiochus should be put to death. ⁵³ According to all these words he wrote to his whole kingdom, and he appointed rulers over the people that should force them to do these things. ⁵⁴ And they commanded the cities of Juda to sacrifice. ⁵⁵ Then many of the people were gathered to them that had forsaken the law of the Lord: and they committed evils in the land: ⁵⁶ And they drove away the people of Israel into lurking holes, and into the secret places of fugitives. ⁵⁷ On the fifteenth day of the month Casleu, in the hundred and forty-fifth year, king Antiochus set up the abominable idol of desolation upon the altar of God, and they built altars throughout all the cities of Juda round about: ⁵⁸ And they burnt incense, and sacrificed at the doors of the houses, and in the streets."

VICTORY OVER THIS ENEMY



In the war that follows, which starts off with the killing of a fellow Judean who was about to offer unacceptable sacrifices, the Maccabees carry out what can be described today as a hit and run battle until the Seleucids family hands back the control of the land to children of Israel.

THE CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

Let us be clear - this is NOT one of the mandated Feasts set out by God - **and we should not try to make it one**. But every nation creates public holidays to commemorate events, which are pivotal in their history. These holidays reflect the culture and the values that are important to those people.

God's people have every right to do the same. However, in our case we create a holiday / Feast that reflects some momentous event where we feel that God provided a unique miracle. These celebrations are not a reflection of our culture, nor do they reflect political viewpoints.

The Chanukah celebration therefore reveals a spiritual message of man's gratefulness. The facts are clear - God's pattern of deliverance has once again been repeated here and reveals God's Hand in this story. What's more is the mere fact that Y'shua is recorded as being in the Tabernacle during this time, and that makes these "set-aside" days all the more relevant to us today.

John 10:22 *Then came Hanukkah in Yerushalayim. It was winter, and Yeshua was walking around inside the Temple area, in Shlomo's Colonnade.*

THIS YEAR - MAY YOUR LIFE REVEAL THE MESSIAH

That's what Y'shua tells everyone that asks... the Father and I are **One**. He says that everything that He says and does reflects / reveals the Heart of the FATHER.

If we want to celebrate together with Him, then maybe it's time not to think about the war / victory, nor about the rededication of the Tabernacle, but to consider how our lives today reflect His Glory? *More importantly, would we recognize Him? Would others recognize the attributes of the King we say we serve when they observe our lifestyle?*

John 10:24 *So the Judeans surrounded Him and said to Him, "How much longer are You going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us publicly!" Yeshua answered them, "I have already told you, and you don't trust Me. The works I do in My Father's Name testify on My behalf, but the reason you don't trust is that you are not included among My sheep. My sheep listen to My Voice, I recognize them, they follow Me, and I give them eternal life. They will absolutely never be destroyed, and no one will snatch them from My Hands. My Father, who gave them to Me, is greater than all; and no one can snatch them from the Father's Hands. I and the Father are One.*

FROM NATURAL LIGHT TO SPIRITUAL LIGHT

We are going to celebrate this time with some deeds in the physical - the act of lighting the Menorah for all eight days. If this is all that we achieve then we are still stuck in the times of the Order of the Levites.

Paul tells us in **1 Corinthians 15:45** - that we must *walk in the physical* to be able to understand and see how we can transform our lives to reflect the spiritual domain.

Suffice to say, times have changed - we are called to serve in the Living Stone Tabernacle, to be with Y'shua as the Great High Priest in the Order of Melchizedek. Our sacrifices / our offerings MUST have a "spiritual message."

PHYSICAL LIGHT

In order to understand the principle that light separates darkness, and that light brings revelation, God creates this in front of our eyes. We “see” this aspect daily, yet take it for granted, which is why we are not able to envisage the concept of spiritual light.

Genesis 1:3 *Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So there was evening, and there was morning, one day.*

Light in the Tabernacle

God takes this element of “light” and introduces it into the Tabernacle. He tells man that we must all bring **fresh oil**. Once again, we see the light as a natural thing and fail to see the relevance of the spiritual actions, which will reflect oil.



Exodus 25:37 *You shall make seven lamps for it. And the lamps shall be set up so as to give **light** on the space in front of it.*

Exodus 27:20 *You shall command the people of Israel that they bring to you pure beaten olive oil for the **light**, that a lamp may regularly be set up to burn.*

Light in victory

Esther 8:16 *The Jews had **light** and gladness and joy and honor.*

SPIRITUAL LIGHT

The prophets become frustrated with the people, they hear the message but fail to absorb its meaning. They see the physical image yet fail to allow their spirits to be impacted. They walk with uncircumcised hearts and so the prophets start to bring warning of the judgments that will befall them, unless they **repent**. God always warns, but at the same time offers HOPE. In each prophecy, we get a vision of a better world. And so this prophet explains carefully that we will live by GOD’S LIGHT - one day:

Isaiah 60:19 *No more will the sun be your light by day, nor will moonlight shine on you; instead ADONAI will be your light forever and your God your glory. No longer will your sun go down; your moon will no longer wane; **for ADONAI will be your light forever**; your days of mourning will end.*

MY TRANSFORMED LIFE - THAT IS LIGHT!

Anyone who has become a Son / Daughter of Abraham, will have the desire to walk in the ways of God. Sometimes these descriptions are poetic and hard to pin down as things in this harsh world, but the fact is – that is God's idea of who we are, what we could be and what He expects us to be...

Isaiah 60:1,3 *Arise, shine, for your **light** has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. 3 And nations shall come to your **light**, and kings to the brightness of your rising.*

Isaiah 50:11 *Behold, all you who kindle a fire, who equip yourselves with burning torches! Walk by the **light** of your fire, and by the torches that you have kindled.*

Isaiah 42:6 *I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a **light** for the nations.*

BUT THESE WORDS ARE WELL KNOWN ... THAT WE SHOULD BE LIGHT!!

SO WHAT SHOULD I LOOK OUT FOR?

1. DO YOU LIVE WITH THE BELIEF THAT GOD IS FAITHFUL?

God operates in the domain of Space and Time. By simple definition:

- ✳ **Covenant** equals **SPACE**,
- ✳ The cycle of **Feasts** equals **TIME**.

Hope keeps us within the confines of the Covenant, and fear takes us outside of the camp. Quiet times of “hearing” God keep us in His Time, and busyness takes us outside of His time cycle.

We can be Sons / Daughters of Abraham and therefore have access to the benefits of the Covenant, however we will also be held accountable to the responsibilities that go with the Covenant. One of our responsibilities of the Covenant is to ‘hear’ what God wants and then to have the courage and the faith to **do** whatever it is that He requires.

In all circumstances we must HOPE and drive away FEAR. At all times we must be still and HEAR God and drive away busyness. While we HEAR God and have HOPE, we will stand firm in our knowledge that GOD IS FAITHFUL. Those who have circumcised their hearts will be able to say:

Psalm 119:11-19 *I treasure Your Word in my heart, so that I won't sin against You. Blessed are You, ADONAI! Teach me Your Laws. I proclaim with my mouth all the rulings You have spoken. I rejoice in the way of Your instruction more than in any kind of wealth. I will meditate on Your precepts and keep my eyes on Your ways. I will find my delight in Your regulations. I will not forget Your Word. 17 Deal generously with Your servant; then I will live and observe Your Word. Open my eyes, so that I will see wonders from Your Torah Though I'm just a wanderer on the earth, don't hide Your mitzvot from me.*

2. DO YOU ACCEPT THAT YOU WILL BE PART OF A REMNANT?



We live in a world that strives for equality / human rights. Unfortunately, within the democracy that we live in, the desire to please everyone means that there is no longer a standard of Holiness. In the desire to be acceptable, the Body has chosen to fit into, to assimilate with the crowd... No one can see any difference between the believer and the pagan. All you have to do is start a conversation about keeping the Shabbat or should we celebrate Christmas, and you will find a huge “fight”. People will defend these positions notwithstanding the clear instruction from Paul; do not establish your own holidays - especially holidays that are coupled to pagan symbols!!

Those who want to be “set apart” will be prepared to accept that we will NOT be able to assimilate into the crowd. At the same time, I would suggest that there are many who demand to be seen as different, with clothing and hairstyles etc. in a range of ideas from ultra religious to the punk groups of the world – that is definitely not what God calls set apart—that is what we call weird / strange.

Galatians 4:9-11 *But now you do know God, and, more than that, you are known by God. So how is it that you turn back again to those weak and miserable elemental spirits? Do you want to **enslave yourselves** to them once more? You observe special days, months, seasons and years! I fear for you that my work among you has been wasted!*

The world is a place where people want to ‘shine **their** light’—the Bible asks us to reveal His Light...

3. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT REDEDICATION IS NECESSARY?

We are called to be set apart. However, the truth is that we live most of our lives within the boundary of the world system. It is therefore almost impossible not to experience some form of contamination by that system. No matter how careful we are, it is not possible to be vigilant all of the time, and therefore moments of compromise could slip through. We may also be led astray by people who appear to be honest / truthful / virtuous and when we accept their word, we could be pulled into (not willingly, but through association) unethical behaviour.

It is therefore vital to make the decision to re-dedicate oneself from time to time.

Our character must be identified by the ***Fruit of the Holy Spirit***:

Galatians 5:22-23 But the Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, self control. Nothing in the Torah stands against such things.

We must operate in the ***spiritual gifts*** that we have been given – our words must be fashioned with SHALOM.

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of Adonai ELOHIM is upon me, because ADONAI has anointed me to announce good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted; to proclaim freedom to the captives, to let out into light those bound in the dark; **2** to proclaim the year of the favor of ADONAI and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, **3** yes, provide for those in Tziyon who mourn, giving them garlands instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a cloak of praise instead of a heavy spirit, so that they will be called oaks of righteousness planted by ADONAI, in which He takes pride.

4. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL PREVAIL?

We all see the number of people who seemingly do wrong and appear to get away with it—in fact, it almost seems as if they *prosper*. The Torah is clear – we have been given an understanding of the Biblical principles of JUSTICE, COMPASSION AND HUMILITY.

In whatever space in the society that we are called to serve God, we will have to operate in some degree within these values.

For example:

- ✳ A politician should have an abundance of the virtue of “justice and humility”.
- ✳ A social worker will have an abundance of “compassion and justice.”

God’s Word is Truth. The Day of Judgment will come - just as it did with every exile of the children of Israel over the generations.

The day of redemption will come, just as it did with the rainbow (after Noah) and the Reed Sea (after Moses) and the River Jordan (after Joshua became leader).

Micah 6:8 *Human being, you have already been told what is good, what ADONAI demands of you — no more than to act justly, love grace and walk in purity with your God.*

5. DO YOU DAILY BRING FRESH OIL TO THE LAMP?

The concept of fresh oil is so physical, we struggle to transform this idea into spiritual principles that reveal the circumcised heart. Oil brings light and light drives away darkness. The dreariness and sorrows of this world, the pain and hurt that fellowman dishes out, make this world a dark place. Fresh oil is like the JOY of being in God's perfect Will and of serving Him in loving obedience. We need to remove the outer shell of the 'old man' and reveal the JOY of living.

Judges 7:19 *Gid'on and the hundred men with him arrived at the edge of the camp a little before midnight, just after they had changed the guard. They blew the shofars and broke in pieces the pitchers that were in their hands. All three companies blew the shofars, broke the pitchers and held the torches in their left hands, keeping their right hands free for the shofars they were blowing; and they shouted, "The sword for ADONAI and for Gid'on!"*

Gideon and the hundred men with him arrived at the edge of the enemy's camp, a little before midnight, just after they had changed the guard. They blew the shofars and broke in pieces the pitchers that were in their hands. All three companies blew the shofars, broke the pitchers and held the torches in their left hands, keeping their right hands free for the shofars they were blowing; and they shouted, "The sword for ADONAI and for Gid'on!"

We read this story in the physical domain. Consider what we are doing in the spiritual. Our physical body is likened to the pitcher, it is the exterior of your self-ego - your old man. We need to "break" down the old man / pitcher so that the spiritual light that is inside of our circumcised heart can be revealed!

Joy comes when we are able to do whatever YHVH asks without being inhibited by our sense of well-being towards our fellow man. Can you show fresh oil of JOY?

Psalms 1:1-2 *How blessed are those who reject the advice of the wicked, don't stand on the way of sinners or sit where scoffers sit! 2 Their delight is in ADONAI's Torah; on His Torah they meditate day and night.*

Psalms 35:9 *Then I will be joyful in ADONAI, I will rejoice in His salvation.*

A FINAL THOUGHT

THE STONE-THROWERS

The Bible reveals that those who are **NOT able to “see”** into the spiritual domain, wanted to pick up stones to “reject” Him--

John 10:31-32 “ Once again the Judeans picked up rocks in order to stone him. **32** Yeshua answered them, “You have seen Me do many good deeds that reflect the Father’s power; for which one of these deeds are you stoning Me?”

Stones in the Bible

The Bible does not use words without intent. Why would we find this particular story focus on the taking up of “stones”? All through the Bible we find that stones have a meaning. From the earliest of days stones were used to set up a marker

or a boundary, to indicate the ‘ownership’ of a piece of land, these stones became a witness to the owner’s rights. Such is the story of Joshua as he enters the Land of Promise.



Deuteronomy 27:8 You are to write on the stones all the words of this Torah very clearly.

In other words, the stones reflected a measure of the **BOUNDARY OF THE COVENANT**. At Mount Sinai the stones became the Tablet on which the **TRUTH of God’s Commandment’s**

were written on.

Deuteronomy 9:10 Then ADONAI gave me the two **stone tablets** inscribed by the Finger of God; and on them was written every word ADONAI had said to you from the fire on the mountain the day of the assembly.

As we study these verses, we note that STONES convey a *spiritual message*. We see this in the manner in which the priests were expected to be dressed with their robes and with all of the insignia. Remember the man is a Levite, but he is only a priest when he wears the robes of the office.

The High Priests carried on their shoulders and on their chest the “stones” as an indication of the various tribes that are included in the Covenant. These precious stones represent not only the unity of all of the group, but also the individual value and potential of each tribe. At no stage would the High Priest ever enter the Tabernacle without representing every single member of the children of Israel.

Exodus 28:15-21 *Make a breastplate for judging. Have it crafted by a skilled artisan; make it like the work of the ritual vest — make it of gold; blue, purple and scarlet yarn; and finely woven linen. When folded double it is to be square — a hand-span by a hand-span. Put in it settings of stones, four rows of stones: the first row is to be a carnelian, a topaz and an emerald; the second row a green feldspar, a sapphire and a diamond; the third row an orange zircon, an agate and an amethyst; and the fourth row a beryl, an onyx and a jasper. They are to be mounted in their gold settings. The stones will correspond to the names of the twelve sons of Isra'el; they are to be engraved with their names as a seal would be engraved, to represent the twelve tribes.*

When those men therefore picked up “stones” to throw at Y’shua, they were discarding / throwing away the essence of God - Covenant / truth / potential / Glory that identified them with the Covenant-keeping God. They gave back to God all that He had given to them. And in that action, they failed to “see” the Messiah.

****NUGGET!** DO YOU THROW STONES BY LIVING AS IF HE DOES NOT EXIST? Do you throw “word stones” of negativity and hatred? Do you throw stones of potential away?**

MAYBE IT'S TIME TO BECOME THE SHEPHERD BOY WHO PICKED UP HIS SLING!!!!

PICK UP 5 STONES!!!!

Stones on which are written the following words:

- ◆ • Loving kindness / Peace
- ◆ • Justice
- ◆ • Mercy and long suffering
- ◆ • Meekness and goodness
- ◆ • Hope

Clear your field of the stones of a hard / uncircumcised heart, and allow God to plant the noble vine, so that you can be grafted into life, and bear much fruit.



Isaiah 5:2 *He dug up its stones and cleared them away, planted it with the choicest vines, built a watchtower in the middle of it, and carved out in its rock a winepress. He expected it to produce good grapes.*

PRACTICAL APPLICATION HOW TO CELEBRATE CHANUKAH

As I mentioned before, in our case as a family, we create a holiday / Feast that reflects some momentous event where we feel that God provided a unique miracle.



We will each get a turn in sharing some or other significant "Glory story" where GOD came through for us each personally in the past year – we get the grandchildren to join in and share something from their own lives as well.

Every night we light a candle – starting with the Servant Candle – the one that

represents Messiah on the Chanukah candlestick – plus ONE candle.

The second night we light the Servant Candle plus TWO candles ... and so we continue on for the EIGHT days of Chanukah.

We have found that once we started to celebrate this Feast, we no longer had any desire to celebrate the pagan traditional Christmas celebrations that our families had celebrated for many generations – we saw it for what it was – and coming in to step with GOD's calendar became such a JOY and BLESSING!!

"Y'varekh'kha YHVH v'yishmerekha.

May YHVH bless you and keep you.

Ya'er YHVH panav eleikha vichunekka.

May YHVH make His Face shine on you and show you His favour.

Yissa YHVH panav eleikha v'yasem l'kha shalom.

May YHVH lift up His Face toward you and give you peace.

In this way they are to put My Name on the people of Israel, so that I will bless them.

-- Numbers 6:24-27

Shalom!!