



MATTHEW 6

The Lilies of The Valley

Feast of Dedication

The origin of the Feast of Dedication. History reveals to us a time period to the year 165 BC, when the Hebrew people in Judea were living under the rule of the Greek kings of Damascus.

The Seleucid King Antiochus Epiphanes, the Greco-Syrian king, took control of the Temple in Jerusalem and forced the Hebrew people to abandon their worship of YHVH, their holy customs, and demanded no further reading of the Torah.

Israel was defiled with Greek idols and King Epiphanies forced the Hebrew people to bow down to these idols.

This Kings mission was to defile the Temple by sacrificial offerings. According to ancient records, King Antiochus IV defiled the Temple by sacrificing a pig on the altar and spilling its blood on the Holy scrolls of Scripture.

It was well known during this period of the infiltration of the Roman Syrians that a complete defilement of pagan

worshiping covered the corners of Israel.

Four Jewish brothers led by Judah Maccabee decided to raise up an army of religious freedom fighters. These men of fierce faith and loyalty to YHVH became known as the Maccabees.

The small group of warriors fought for a period of three years with "strength from heaven" until achieving a miraculous victory and deliverance from Greco-Syrian control.

After regaining the Temple, it was cleansed by the Maccabees, cleared of all Greek idolatry, and rededicated.

During the pagan era in Israel the evergreen fir **tree** has traditionally been used to celebrate the pagan festivals in winter with its roots to the ancient Roman holiday of Saturnalia.

During the festival of Saturnalia, the ancient Egyptians used green palm leaves as part of their worship of the sun god Ra Amen.

During the time of Mary and Joseph Paganism was not new to them as it was part of history.

When the angel, Gabriel, appeared to Zacharias as he was ministering in the Temple, it was during the ministrations of Abiyah (also spelled Abia or Abijah). This order of priests ministered in the Temple the eighth week of the Hebrew year according to the ordinance of 1 Chronicles 24:10 (and according to the Talmud).

The eighth week transverses the last week of the second Hebrew month of Iyar and the first week of the third Hebrew month of Sivan, which culminates at Pentecost.

This is the anchor point for discovering the exact time of Messiah Yeshua's birth. The angel promised Zacharias that his prayer had been answered, and when he went home to his wife Elizabeth she conceived, it seems almost immediately.

This puts the conception of John the Baptist very near the time of the Feast of Pentecost, in the second week of the month of Sivan, the third Hebrew month.

Luke 1:5-25

Then, at the close of the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary. Gabriel told Mary about Elizabeth, saying "she who was called barren is six months pregnant," This would be the last of the ninth Hebrew month called Kislev at the time of Hannukah.

There are 27 weeks between the end of discourse of Abiyah (Abia or Abijah) and the start of Hannukah (meaning Dedication), which is celebrated eight days, from Kislev 25 to Tevet 2.

Mary accepts the word of the angel concerning the conception of Messiah in her, and she immediately rushes from Nazareth to the home of Elizabeth and Zacharias in the Judean mountains close to Jerusalem, about a three days journey from Nazareth.

Mary was probably going there to celebrate the Feast of Dedication to help her niece Elizabeth, as well as to talk to Elizabeth about the angel's visitation.

Upon Mary's greeting to Elizabeth, Elizabeth responds to Mary, calling her "the mother of my Adonai".

This demonstrates that Mary was expecting Yeshua as the Scriptures are fulfilled that Yeshua is the Light of the World. The festival of light.

The apostate Roman church of medieval times combined the pagan winter solstice in late December with the 25th of Kislev (Feast of Dedication) to create Christmas (Christ's Mass) on December 25 to celebrate Christ's birth.

Yeshua is shown partaking the Feast of Dedication in John 10:22,23. It is at this celebration that He declares "I and My Father are One" John 10:30

We do not celebrate Yeshua's birthday during this time of December but we give honour to YHVH our Heavenly Father for sending His son to be the Light to this world.

Yeshua's birthday is on the same Hebraic calendar number each year, Tishri 15, but in relation to the Gregorian calendar it changes.

The Feast of Tabernacles is a most important commemoration. Zechariah 14:16,17 tells us that one day all nations will be required by law to honor this feast.

Be blessed and stay blessed 🌷