**John VII**

**Jesus and Hanukkah**

**Review:**

Theme of John:

Jesus is the Son of God who reveals the father, providing eternal life to all who believe in him.

Jesus is revealed through is miracles and his statements about himself.

Also, Jesus is revealed through his fulfillment of the Jewish festivals.

Last week: John 5:1-47 The healing at the pool of Bethesda.

Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath.

We were asked, “Do you want to get well?”

Or are you comfortable being religious, but not really changing your life?

What if Jesus healed you? How would you have to change your life?

v. 8 Jesus: Get up! Pick up your mat and walk!

To be healed, you need to get up and take action!

v. 17 “My father is always at work.” I have authority over the Sabbath.

John 5:18 They tried all the more to kill him… Why?

Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath.

Jesus the Lord of the Sabbath, (and of booths, Passover)

1. Jesus greater than/ Lord of the Sabbath Jn 5:1-18

2. Passover points to Jesus Jn 6:1-70

3. Booths/Tabernacles point to Jesus. Jn 7:1-9:41

4. Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) points to Jesus. Jn 10

This week: Jesus is revealed through fulfillment of the Jewish festivals—specifically Hanukkah.

John 10:22-24 Jesus at the Feast of Dedication, also known as the Festival of Lights—Hanukkah.

So, why does John mention the Feast of Dedication?

Jesus fulfills the expectation of the Feast of Dedication—of Hanukkah (the Hebrew word Hanukkah means dedication or revival).

OK, so what is that?

This is a feast which celebrates the rededication of the temple after the abomination of desolation of Antiochus Epiphanes.

(and we will see in this passage that Jesus is the dedicated one, fulfilling this expectation)

So, what is that about?

Daniel 8:1-14

A prophecy made in “The third year of King Belshazzar” 551 BC

v. 2 in the citadel of Susa. Later the capitol of Persia.

v. 3 A ram with two horns. Persia/Media

v. 3 A horn which was longer but grew up later. Cyrus the Persian

v. 4 Charged West (Lydia) North (Babylon) and South (Egypt)

v. 5 Suddenly, a goat charges form the West. Prominent horn: Alexander the Great. 334 BC crossed the Dardenelles.

v. 5 Without touching the ground. By 332, Darius III was dead

v. 8 At the height of his power… 323 BC.

v. 8 Four Prominent horns. Antigonus, Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy

(v. 21,22) Not 3, not 5, 4!!!!!

v. 22 The four horns that replaced the one that was broken off represent the four kingdoms that will emerge from this nation but will not have the same power.

v. 9 Out of one of them. Seleucus 312 BC

v. 9 to the South (Mesopotamia) East (Persia, Media, Elam) toward the Beautiful Land (Palestine) All this took over 100 years.

v. 11 It set itself up to be as great as the Prince of the host—Antiochus had a statue of himself put up in the inner sanctuary of the temple.

v. 11 It took away the daily sacrifice. For three years.

This is exactly what happened

1 Maccabees 1:46-47 Antiochus Epiphanes banned sacrifices, defiled the sanctuary, sacrificing pigs in the temple, ordering people to forget the Law. Penalty for not obeying was death.

1 Maccabees 1:57-58 “On the fifteenth day of Chislev in the year 145 (Nov, 167 BC) the king [Antiochus Epiphanes IV] erected the abomination of desolation above the altar; and altars were built in the surrounding towns of Judah and incense offered at the doors of the houses and in the streets. Any books of the Law that come to light were torn up and burned. Whenever anyone was discovered possessing a copy of the covenant or practicing the Law, the king’s decree sentenced him to death.

v. 60 Women who had their sons circumcised were put to death with their babies hung around their necks.

v. 62 Yet, many stood firm

This is when the Hasidim—the “Devout” formed, who eventually became the Pharisees. (1 Maccabees 2:42) They are the ones who refused to compromise their commitment to the Law of Moses. They were the supporters of the Maccabees who defeated Antiochus Epiphanes.

v. 12 truth thrown to the ground. Hellenizing Jews set up as high priests

“Because of rebellion” God is in control. Why did this happen? Because the Jews had not been faithful. If we are not faithful—if we become prideful and do not rely on God he will judge us and discipline us.

Skip to Daniel 8:23-25

24. He will become very strong, but not by his own power.

25. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power. Is this subtle?

Back to v. 14 2300 evenings and mornings = 1150 days.

The actual desecration lasted from late Nov 167BC – Dec 25 (the 25th of Chislev), 164 BC Judas Maccabeeus successful revolt establishing the Maccabeean kingdom.

About 1150 days

Daniel 11:31-35

1 Macabbees 4:36-40 52-61 Eight days of Hannukah, Dedication of the temple. Also called the Festival of Lights (Josephus)

The tradition is that the menorah burned for eight days despite the fact that only one day’s supply of dedicated oil was found. (but this is not in any of the original accounts).

Christians celebrate this as a foreshadow of the resurrection of Jesus on the eighth day, by the way.

Hannukkuh celebrates this.

Judas Maccabaeus was considered a deliverer of Israel (and a prefigure of the Messiah). This was like a resurrection of Judaism, as if from the dead. The point of this feast is that God will resurrect his people. Theme of this section is that Jesus is the resurrection and the life, as demonstrated when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

Jesus shows his ministry to be parallel to the Feast of Dedication in John 10:25-28 I will resurrect my people.

So, let’s go back to John 10:22-39

It is Hanukkah/Feast of Dedication. It is Christmastime

John 10:24 The Jews: Tell us if you are the Messiah! Messiah means anointed one. The one dedicated to God.

John 10:25, 32, 38 The works (miracles) I do testify to my right to say these things. But the Jews do not believe. (remember John 5:31-40 three that testify: JTB, miracles/works, fulfillment of OT Scripture)

John 10:27-28 I give my sheep eternal life, and they will never perish. I will resurrect my people—bring them back from the dead.

[and by the way, v. 28-29 “No one will be able to snatch them out of my hand” is a favorite proof-text for the once-saved-always-saved false doctrine. It is true that no one can steal your salvation—no one can take it away, but you can walk away…]

Interestingly, Jesus did not directly answer their question, because “my time has not yet come, but instead he makes ***an even greater claim***.

John 10:30 I and the Father are one. I am God!!! Here is that theme of Jesus saying who he is.

Q: Are you sure that is what he is claiming (to be God)? Yes!!! John 10:31-33 You claim to be God.

John 10:34-36 Jesus makes an argument that seems strange to us. (oblique because his time has not yet come?)

He quotes Psalm 82:6

If they called the angels, or those in God’s court “gods,”

Psalm 82:6 I said you are “gods” (using air quotes), ie you are all sons of the Most high.

v. 36 Why does it offend you, then that I said, “I am God’s Son”? (there is irony here, because if Jesus is in fact not God’s Son, then they have every right to be offended!!!)

1. John 10:36 Jesus has been “set apart.” Jesus has been dedicated by the Father.

Jesus: I am the Dedicated one. I am Hanukkah. I am the fulfillment of the Feast of Dedication.

2. v. 36 I am God’s son.

v. 38 Just look at the works I do (for the third time)

3. The Father is in me and I am in the Father.

Again, as we have seen already many times, in John, Jesus is revealed for who he is through the miracles that he worked and the things he said about himself.

Jesus is what the Feast of Dedication looks forward to. He is the Dedicated one of God.

And remember, Hanukkah is about God bringing his people back from the dead.

Look what happened just shortly after. John 11:3 Lord, the one you love (Lazarus) is sick. John 11:7 Let us go back to Judea. 11:8 “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and you are going back?”

John 11:25 I Am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?

What do we learn from Hanukkah/the Feast of Dedication?

Jesus celebrated Hanukkah.

God rules the nations. No matter what God’s enemies do to his people, God will save them and rededicate them to his purpose.

God loves his people, no matter how bad it looks.

God will save his people. God will ultimately resurrect us from the dead.

Jesus fulfills the messianic expectation contained in the Feast of Dedication/Hanukkah.

Jesus is the one who gives eternal life

Jesus and the Father are one.

Jesus is the Dedicated one of God.

Jesus is God’s Son.

The Father is in Jesus and Jesus is in the Father.

That is who we are talking about!!!

Let us enjoy the Christmas/Hanukkah season.

Let us celebrate Jesus—the one who Hanukkah is all about.