

MESSIANIC MINUTES

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“Just like the revolt of the Macabees, God used bloodshed (the blood of His Son) to reclaim us so we could be rededicated unto Him.”

HANUKKAH AND MESSIAH: THE FEAST OF DEDICATION/THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

by Jeffrey D. Miller

Eight days of fun, gifts and celebration. That's how the typical Jewish family sees Hanukkah. But God has a much more powerful reality to show us in the link between this celebration and Yeshua.

While the basics of Hanukkah are historical, they are not specifically scriptural, although it is written in John 10, verses 22 & 23, “Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem and it was winter. And Jesus walked in the Temple . . .” But since the events of the Macabean revolution (that's what the feast is all about) occurred after the last book of the *Tenach* (Hebrew Scriptures) was written, it is obviously



A traditional Hanukkah Menorah. Notice the elevated Shamash candle in the middle.

not included there.

Nevertheless, we do know in 165 B.C. an Israeli uprising, lead by a group calling themselves the *Macabees*, successfully defeated the superior armies of the ruling Syrians. On the 25th day of

the Hebrew calendar month of *Kislev*, **they re-dedicated the Holy Temple** at Jerusalem. The Temple had been desecrated by their heathen oppressors; even a pig, which is a scripturally

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A TESTIMONY

by Rabbi Ted Simon

There I was a “Yuppie” in Hagerstown. Single, new career, my own apartment, a car – even a couple of bucks in the bank. I was on a career path and ready to enjoy the ride!

But my fiancée Diane had a friend, Ann, and Ann had a mother – Dora. And Dora had just returned from a conference. A conference in Israel. A conference in Israel about the Holy Spirit and God's irrevocable call on the Jewish people and the nation.

And there I was the first Jewish person she met since she got back to the States. K'BAM! It was like two galactic forces colliding.

At first all Dora did was invite me over to eat. Being a bachelor, a home cooked meal was a treat. After the

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“Can't we see, anything that takes our focus off being a light to the world is not part of God's plan?”

HANUKKAH

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unclean animal, had been sacrificed on the Holy Altar.

The celebration of this re-dedication lasts eight days because, the legend goes, a one-day supply of sacred oil burned in the lampstand for eight days while a new supply of the oil was prepared. Hence the second title, the Festival of Lights. As part of the celebration, Jewish people will light a candle each night (this year starting December, 19th) to commemorate the miracle of the oil. Using a *menorah*, one candle is lit the first

night, two the second, and so forth. However, the candles are never lit directly. Instead, a *shamash* (servant) candle is lit first, then it is used to light the others.

As you can see, this *shamash* candle sits above those it serves, and those other candles have no light of their own, but get their light from the servant.

Wow, it is Jesus! He came as a servant, yet is greater than those He served; and His light was given to us so we could be a light to the world. It is traditional to put the lighted menorah in a window so all can see it. *“Let your light so shine*

among all men.” (Matt 5:16)

Now consider this: Just like the Temple in Jerusalem, we were all made for God's holy purposes. But we have been desecrated by the sin of the world. Just like the revolt of the Macabees, God used bloodshed (the blood of His Son) to reclaim us so we could be re-dedicated unto Him. And through His light, the miracle is accomplished. When we follow Messiah, we *“shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”* (John 8:12) At this season of Hanukkah, **let's re-dedicate!** *“Do you not know your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit . . .”* (1Cor 6:19)

'TIS THE SEASON...

by Jeffrey D. Miller

Yes Virginia, there is a God.

OK, it's trite... but even among the Christian community there is a constant need to remember, especially at this time of the year, He lives!

How distressing it is to know that the depression which affects so many people during the holiday season also affects some born-again believers. That's because any time our focus strays from the truth of Jesus, the risen Savior, we're in trouble.

Now how can that happen at Christmas, a time we traditionally celebrate (even though there is no

scriptural or practical support for December 25th) the birth of Jesus, the Jewish Messiah? The answer is simple. God never intended for there to be a Christmas celebration anything like what we know today.

The proof is in the pudding. Our celebratory bravado has become so overwhelming, that even though we keep saying things like "Jesus is the reason for the season," we just plain and simply lose the focus of spiritual truth. We are so busy running around buying gifts, baking goodies, preparing parties and so forth...but how much of that is really spreading the Gospel?

Can't we see, anything that takes our focus off being a light to the world is not

part of God's plan?

Here's more proof. Do you know anyone (believers included) who feels a letdown or emptiness at the end of the holiday season? How can that be God?

If God were really in the midst of all this celebration, we would be spiritually supercharged at the end, ready to go forth with greater boldness than ever.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not trying to be the Jewish grinch who stole Christmas. There are lots of things we all do that don't directly spread the Gospel and aren't bad. But to do something in the name of our faith that actually dilutes our faith, now that's a problem.

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TESTIMONY

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most wonderful dill bean and barley soup, and other Dora specialties, I'd sit stuffed in the living room, and Dora would say, "let's listen to this tape I just got." She didn't give me the tape, nor did she give me books to read. It was just "let's listen to this tape." OK, I'd say - since I was too full to move anyway.

The tapes were like nothing I had ever heard before. I'd never heard anything like it in four years of college, or in ten years of Hebrew school. Here was a Jewish man, Manny Brotman, who was teaching from the Jewish Bible (*Harkavay* edition) about Israel and its destiny, and its Messiah.

The first few times I listened I figured it was the soup that

made me so mellow and receptive. But then I saw the logic, and then I began to experience a yearning in my heart.

But I'm Jewish I thought to myself and said aloud to Dora and Diane. Jewish people don't believe in Jesus.

But the more I listened the more I began to fall in Love with this man from Nazareth.

"But I'm Jewish!" came the response from deep down inside. So I devised a sinister plan. I invited Dora to my house for a meal, like a reciprocal invitation. And she came over, and I proceeded to get pretty obnoxious. I'll get rid of this Jesus thing right now, I thought. And I picked up a bone from the meal and waiving it menacingly at Dora, I said, "Dora, I don't want to hear anymore about

this Jesus."

Dora stands about 5'1" and is 86 years old. I'm not proud (now) of how I behaved for it was unabashedly forceful, rude, self-righteous and ignorant. (All lubricated by too much wine, no doubt.)

Well, Dora just stood there and said, "Ted, you know I was a nurse in WWII."

"Yes, Dora" I said, "you told me."

"But I never told you what kind of nursing I did."

"No, what kinda nursing didya do?"

"I was a psychiatric nurse, and nothing that you're doing or going to do will keep me from sharing the Love of Yeshua (Jesus) with you."

And nothing did. Three

"Jewish people don't believe in Jesus. But the more I listened the more I began to fall in Love with this man from Nazareth."

months later, on the Day of Atonement - the Holiest Day in the Jewish calendar, I responded to Manny Brotman's in-person invitation to come forward and be born into the Kingdom of God through the Lordship of Jesus, the Messiah.

And when I looked to my right, there was Diane at the altar with me, professing her faith in Yeshua and also giving her life to Him.

SEASON

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Now if you are one of those so caught up in all this stuff that you have really just missed the mark, or you are close to someone who is, just fall to your knees right now in prayer. Say this:

"Heavenly Father, you are a great and mighty God whose wisdom abounds far beyond that of all mankind. Forgive me (or the name of someone else) for losing track of the truth of your glory. Make a transformation right now, rekindle my heart's desire to truly worship you

through everything I do. Let everyone see a joy in me that transcends this season and lasts all year long. Open doors of opportunity for me to witness and minister the Gospel of Jesus Christ as never before. Lord, give me the same zeal in January, July and every month of the year to be joyous about the birth, life, death and resurrection of my Lord and Savior Jesus."

Truth is, the joy of Christmas is really the joy of Jesus, and that of course is the same all the time. Now that's something to celebrate!



*This Holiday Season, remember that **you** have been sent as a light to the world. Despite all the distractions, don't forget to show the Joy of Jesus in everything you do!*

Messianic Minutes

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Visit our Website at
www.messianicminutes.com



Messianic Minutes is a five minute daily radio program (with seasonal half-hour specials) aimed at bringing the Gospel to the Jewish people through Bible believing Christian listeners. The good news is that the Kingdom is available to you now! The program is hosted by Jeffrey D. Miller and Rabbi Ted Simon, two Jewish men who love Yeshua (Jesus), the Jewish Messiah.

Rabbi Simon and Mr. Miller also travel to various congregations all over the country in order to teach the church about its Jewish roots. They speak on a variety of subjects concerning Israel, the Church, and these last days, offering a Jewish perspective many Christians may have never experienced in the past.



BEHIND THE SCENES

by Rabbi Ted Simon

I want to take you behind the scenes of *Messianic Minutes*. The ministry of *Messianic Minutes* is far more than Jeff and I sharing each day on the radio. The Ministry of *Messianic Minutes* is the labor of engineers, DJ's, staff, administrators, secretaries, and support personnel, not only of our radio show, but also of over 45 radio stations around the US. The ministry of *Messianic Minutes* is the joy you receive in getting to know Jesus more intimately as the Son of God and the Son of David as you listen to the show. The ministry of you seeing Him and cherishing His people and His creation is the jewel of The Word. The ministry is your joy in understanding the

Jewishness of Jesus and the celebration of the reality of His Life.

The ministry of *Messianic Minutes* is not measured in airtime, wattage, newsletters, personal correspondence, or even dollars. The ministry of *Messianic Minutes* is thousands of equipped saints like you speaking life, and the harvest of souls into the Kingdom of God. And **you are** so vital to our success! Your prayers and support are under girding the entire ministry.

Recently, we've heard from listeners who have taken the information that we share on the show, and have spoken the Truth to their Jewish friends, co-workers, and loved ones. When we

receive a letter from you asking for prayer, our administrative coordinator immediately stops other tasks and begins to pray. There is agreement with you for the salvation of those you care about. Then, Jeff and I have the opportunity to add our faith to yours and agree that His Will be done, and that His Kingdom comes to earth — and that your prayers are answered.

At this time of the year, we rely on your very generous giving to encourage us and support us as we continue this most vital work. We need your gifts today. Never has the need for the Church to know its Jewish roots been greater! Jesus wept over Jerusalem, and we weep when we see the blindness that has befallen

our people. Yet, how will the Jewish people believe unless they hear? Friends, we are counting on you to come along with us, during the closing days of 2003.

Will you prayerfully consider a substantial investment into the ministry of *Messianic Minutes*? Will you invest prayers? Will you invest tears? Will you invest earthy treasures? The resources that have been entrusted to you can be invested into the ministry of *Messianic Minutes* — and I believe **they will yield a hundred-fold return.** Your partnering with us, today, really is fulfilling the Biblical mandate of sharing the Good News. Your year-end gift is so appreciated and so eternally significant.