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December 2018

Shalom one and all!

Can you believe it - this year is almost over! Here we are, celebrating Hanukkah, the Feast of Dedication that Messiah so enjoyed and used as a teaching time in John chapter 10 to proclaim Himself as the Divine Messiah the light of the world. I want to share with you a "Connecting the dots" moment I just had the other day as I was preparing for this Hanukkah season. ([Click here for Chanukah resources.](#))

Most of you are familiar with Matthew 24 speaking about the "Last Days" but many may not realize that in Matthew 24 we see many aspects of Hanukkah being repeated. The Bible says there is nothing new under the sun and that which has happened is that which shall be. This is easily discovered when you read the recorded historical accounts of what happened by both Josephus and the Book of the Maccabees.

In Matthew 24 it talks about how there will be wars and rumors of wars. If you put on your Jewish hat at that time the two main wars you would be thinking of would have been the most recent one, involving the Maccabees and Hanukkah! The other one would be the destruction of the Jerusalem and the Temple by the Babylonians. The Jews were very familiar with Daniels vision of the image that is destroyed by a giant Rock and historically they have already lived through the Babylonian Empire, the Medes and the Persian Empire, the Greek Empire, and currently were experiencing the Roman Empire.

So as Yeshua begins with the phrase of wars and rumors of wars there thoughts automatically turn to Hanukkah. Then when they hear about many being offended and betraying each other and the love of many waxing cold, this is exactly what happened during Hanukkah! Then when He states that when you "see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by

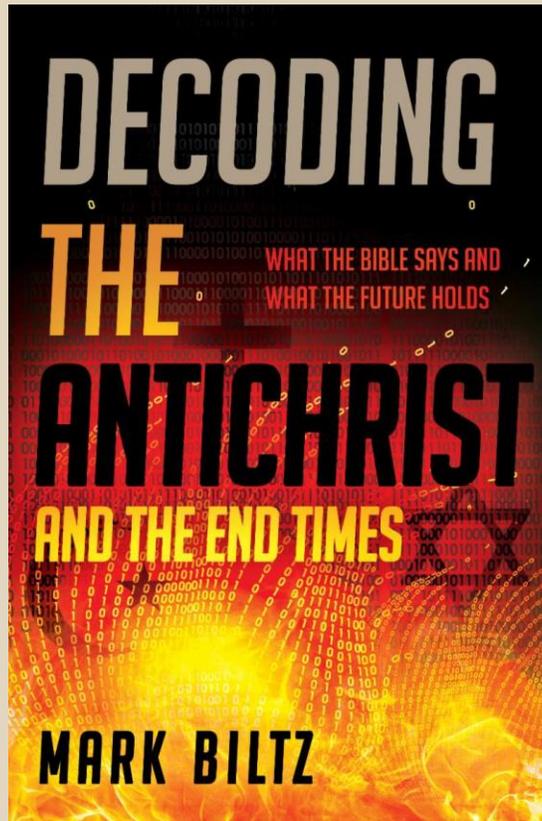
Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)" This is exactly what happened 170 yrs earlier during Hanukkah! Even Josephus records this prophecy of Daniel being fulfilled at that time. This is telling the disciples that Hanukkah will happen again! The when He says, "Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:" these are the exact words of the Maccabees after they killed the officer of Antiochus setting off the revolt. It goes on to say to "pray that your flight is not in winter or on a Sabbath day". When is Hanukkah? In the winter. Why the Sabbath day? Because it was at Hanukkah that many Jews were slaughtered by not defending themselves on the Sabbath and it was then that they determined that they could fight on the Sabbath to defend their lives.

Then toward the end of the chapter Messiah talks about the good and evil servants. You have to remember during Hanukkah there were faithful Jews who held to the Torah and unfaithful ones who adhered to the Greek mindset. The good servant was watching and the evil servant was saying that the Messiah was delaying His coming and was consumed with themselves so they went where there was weeping and gnashing of teeth. Now comes my big Ah Ha moment! When the disciples were seeing all the Hanukkah connections what else do you think was coming to their mind? What was the big miracle story they had heard about every year for 170 years concerning the story of Hanukkah? Josephus tells us! It was the story of the 8 nights where the oil in the lamp never went out until more oil was available. The righteous ones relit the lamp when it had gone out with the little oil they had and restored the temple. Well guess what? There should be no chapter breaks in our Bibles and if you just keep reading the very next story Messiah relates to His disciples at the same time is the story of the wise and foolish virgins and the wise have oil to relight their lamps!! Hanukkah!!!

Then the rest of Matthew 25 is the continuation of the story of Hanukkah and how God will divide the good sheep from the bad sheep based on how we treated one another and used the abilities God gave us to advance His kingdom.

At this time I also want to let everyone know we have a new book coming out this March called "Decoding the Antichrist and the End times" published by Charisma. In the book we discuss Matthew 24 and Hanukkah being repeated. We take a look at the Islamic view of end times as well as the Jewish view. Rather than trying to figure out who the antichrist is we do a profile of the antichrist spirit. We show how Solomon fulfills the role

of an antichrist more than the Messiah. We look at Artificial Intelligence and how it will play a role in the last days.



So, we want people to contact us and let us know in advance if they will want a copy when it comes out. For those who preorder through El Shaddai Ministries when the time comes they will get an autographed copy. But for now just sign up to be notified when the preorder times come. [Click here to sign up.](#) Click on the Contact Us form and follow instructions in red.

Blessings!
Pastor Mark

Announcements



Follow [this link](#) for the Candle lighting blessings, recipes, the Chanukah story, and more!

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Recipes

This Newsletter's Recipes inspired by Hanukkah.
Recipes found on Allrecipes.com, link to each recipe is included.

Jewish Style Sweet and Sour Brisket

Recipe By: Louise

Prep 15 m
Cook 2 h 45 m
Ready In 11 h

Ingredients:

- 4 pounds beef brisket
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup ketchup
- 1/2 cup white vinegar
- 2 onions, sliced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon salt



Directions

1. Heat brisket in a large skillet or dutch oven over medium-high heat. Cook until browned on all sides. Stir in water, ketchup, vinegar, onions, garlic, brown sugar, and salt. Bring to a boil, then cover and reduce heat to medium-low. Continue simmering until tender, turning brisket occasionally, 2 hours and 30 minutes to 3 hours and 30 minutes.
2. Remove brisket and allow to cool before slicing the meat against the grain. Place brisket slices in a 9x13 inch baking pan or large platter and pour gravy on top. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Remove any excess fat and reheat before serving.

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Kay Dee's Recipe for Potato Latkes

Recipe By: Karen Dsouza

Prep 20 m
Cook 25 m
Ready In 45 m

Ingredients

- 3 large potatoes, peeled and shredded
- 1 small onion, shredded
- 3 eggs
-
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour, or as needed
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil



Directions

1. Place the potatoes and onion into a bowl, and stir in eggs, salt, and flour as needed to make the mixture hold together. With wet hands, scoop up about 1/3 cup of the mixture per patty, and form into flat round or oval shapes.
2. Heat the vegetable oil in a large skillet over medium heat until it shimmers, and gently place the patties into the hot oil. Fry until the bottoms are golden brown and crisp, 5 to 8 minutes, then flip with a spatula and fry the other side until golden.
3. Line a colander or strainer with 2 paper towels, and drain the cooked latkes in the colander. Serve hot.

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Sufganiyot

Recipe By: Rachel

Prep 1d 1h 20m

Cook 30m

Ready In 1d 1h 50m

Ingredients

- 2 1/2 teaspoons active dry yeast
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 3/4 cup warm milk (110 degrees F/45 degrees C)
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 egg yolks
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 2 tablespoons butter, softened
- 1/2 cup drained cottage cheese
- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 cups vegetable oil for frying
- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar



Directions

1. Dissolve the yeast and 2 tablespoons white sugar in the warm milk.
2. Sift flour into a large bowl. Make a well in the center and add the yeast mixture, egg yolks, salt, nutmeg, butter, and remaining sugar. Stir flour into center. Once combined turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface knead until dough is elastic. Cover and let dough rise overnight in the refrigerator.
3. Remove dough from the refrigerator and roll on a lightly floured surface to 1/8 to 1/4 inch thick. Cut into 2-inch rounds. Cover and let rise for about 15 to 20 minutes.
4. In a medium bowl combine the cottage cheese, egg, 3 tablespoons white sugar, and vanilla. Beat until well combined.
5. Form dough rounds into a ball and insert about 2 teaspoons of cheese filling into each of the rounds.
6. In a heavy pot, pour in oil to about the 2 1/2 inch mark. Heat to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Drop sufganiot (doughnuts) into the oil in batches, turning when browned. Drain on paper towels and roll in confectioners' sugar.

This Day in Jewish History

Kislev - Tevet

[23 Kislev]

- Year of Terror against Jews of Alsace began (with a well-poisoning accusation), 1348.
- Massacre of the Jews of Nuremberg in Black Death riots, 1349.

[24 Kislev]

- Foundation of second Beit HaMikdash was completed.
- Chaggai prophesied the downfall of Persia and the salvation of the Jews.
- British captured J'lem from the Turks, 1917.

[25 Kislev]

- First day of Chanuka.
- Cain killed Abel.
- Construction of the Mishkan was completed.
- Yahrzeits of the Vilna Gaon's father and son, 1758, 1808.
- Jews ordered expelled from Tennessee by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant.
- Zichron Yaakov founded, 1882.
- The order of the expulsion of the Jews of Spain (associated with Tish'a b'Av 1492) was officially voided on the first day of Chanuka 1968.

[26 Kislev]

- First Crusade proclaimed, 1095.

[27 Kislev]

- The Flood rains stopped.
- Agnon wins Nobel prize for literature, 1966.

[7 Tevet]

- Three leaders of Babylonian Jewry were arrested by Persian officials, 468, sparking a wave of persecution of the Jews of Babylonia.
- Supposed liberties granted Russian Jews by the Czar in 1804, actually spelled economic ruin for much of the Jewish community.
- The Prussian government decreed that Jewish services must be conducted in strict adherence to Jewish Tradition, 1823. The decree was "solicited" by the Traditional Jewish community in order to fight against the new Reform movement. Ultimately, however, we suffer much more harm from governmental intervention than good.

[8 Tevet]

- First translation of the Torah into a foreign language (Greek). Considered a tragic event; ancient fast day.
- Eichmann sentenced to death, 1961.

[9 Tevet]

- Yahrzeit of Ezra Hasofer and Nechemia. Ancient fast day.
- Yahrzeit of Rabbi Ezra HaNavi, Tosafist, Kabbalist, Teacher of the Ramban, 1227.

[10 Tevet]

- Asara B'Tevet, one of the four commemorative fasts mentioned by Zecharia HaNavi.
- Beginning of the siege around Jerusalem, 588 b.c.e.
- Yirmiyahu bought a field and prophesied that we will once again buy homes and land in Eretz Yisrael, 587 b.c.e.
- Yahrzeits of Zecharia and Malachi.
- King Herod captured Jerusalem, 37 b.c.e.
- 3,000 Jews killed in Bucharest riots, 1941.
- Memorial day for the six million Jews killed by the Nazis.

[11 Tevet]

- 100,000 Jews of Sicily expelled, 1492.

[12 Tevet]

- Yechezkiel prophesied the downfall of Egypt and the triumph of Bavel, 587 b.c.e.
- A violent earthquake rocked Eretz Yisrael seriously damaging the walls of Jerusalem and Tower of David, 1033.
- Another Mordechai and Esther (of Medzibezh) saved the Jews from Chmielnicki's army, 1648.

[13 Tevet]

- First issue of the Hebrew printing press of Amsterdam (the Siddur), 1627.
- Rumanian Jews were excluded from the medical profession, 1868.

[14 Tevet]

- Jews of Laibach, Austria expelled, 1515.
- Window Purim. celebrated by the S'fardic community of Hebron.
- Population of Israel reached three million, 1971.

[15 Tevet]

- First printed edition of Sefer Mitzvot Gadol, Soncino, Italy, 1488.

[16 Tevet]

- Emperor Joseph II of Austria issued an Edict of Toleration in 1782 which repealed most restrictions on Jews that had been imposed by the Church.

[17 Tevet]

- The organization of the Jewish community of Rome was approved by the pope, 1524.
- Frederick William of Brandenburg issued a decree safeguarding the privileges of the Jews of Berlin, 1676.
- The yahrzeit of the Dubno Maggid, 1804.

[18 Tevet]

- Rabbi Huna Mori bar Mar Zutra, the head of Babylonian Jewry, and Mesharshya b. Pekuda were executed in Pumpedita, 468 c.e.
- Two ships with "illegal" immigrants were taken by the British to Cyprus, 1947.
- Two years later - to the day - the British announced their intention to release the Cyprus internees.

[19 Tevet]

- The Catholic Church in Recife, Brazil closed the two shuls then in existence there, 1638.

[20 Tevet]

- 795th yahrzeit of the Rambam (1204). On his 279th yahrzeit in 1483, the first printed edition of Gemara Brachot was published in Soncino, Italy. It contained Rambam's commentary on Mishna.
- The Jewish community of Ancona, Italy miraculously escaped unharmed from an earthquake, 1690. They declared a fast day in commemoration.
- The Nazis prohibited Jews from congregating in shuls and private homes for prayer, 1940. So too, did they forbid Jews from changing residences - this, a precursor of the ghettos.

[21 Tevet]

- Birthday of Shimon, son of Yaakov Avinu.
- Purim Ancona, followed the fast day mentioned above, for the 20 Tevet.

[22 Tevet]

- Anti-Jewish riots in Ancona, Italy, 1798 (day after the "local" Purim which had been celebrated since 1691).
- Roman mobs attempted to set fire to the ghetto and to sack it, 1798.

[23 Tevet]

- A fire which started in the home of the rabbi of Frankfort-on-the-Main nearly destroyed the whole Jewish ghetto, 1711.

- Yahrzeit of Nathan Straus, for whom the city of Netanya and the Israel Center's street are both named, 1931.

History found at [OU](#).



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