

**Opening Reading:**

**Daniel 2:1–49**

*Nebuchadnezzar's Dream*

<sup>20</sup> Daniel answered and said:

“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,  
to whom belong wisdom and might.

<sup>21</sup> He changes times and seasons;

**HE REMOVES KINGS AND SETS UP KINGS;**

he gives wisdom to the wise  
and knowledge to those who have understanding;

<sup>22</sup> **he reveals deep and hidden things;**

**he knows what is in the darkness,  
and the light dwells with him.**

<sup>23</sup> To you, O God of my fathers,

I give thanks and praise,

for you have given me wisdom and might,  
and have now made known to me what we asked of you,  
for you have made known to us the king's matter.”

The Battle will be in Philadelphia paralleling a Spiritual Battle for the heart of the people and the nation, the origin of the foundation of our country, the birth of God of a new nation, one which holds God's rights above all other rights (*Election 2020*).

**The True Meaning of Hanukkah**

*The Feast of Dedication and The Feast of Light*

Week 8 - PARASHA VAYISHLACH (And He Sent)  
Genesis 32:4 (3)–36:43; Obadiah 1:1–21; Ephesians 4:1–32

**“TRUST in God is Greater than all of our Praises to God”**

*“And Jacob sent [vayishlach נָשְׂאָה] messengers ahead of him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir,  
the country of Edom.” Genesis 32:4[3]*

**Last Week:**

**Genesis 28:10–32:2; Hosea 12:13–14:10; John 4:1–26**

In last week's Torah reading, describes Jacob's travels to and his life in Harran, his mother's homeland, to find a wife and to fee the murderous plot of his brother Esau; and his leaving his unjust father-in-law, Laban, while he was off shearing his sheep. Fearing that Laban would keep his daughters, Leah and Rachel, Jacob stole away with all he had: his sons, his two wives, and all of his livestock, heading for the mountains of Gilead.

*A few Take-A-Way Points from Last Week were from the following passages:*

1. Genesis 28:10 – **To fulfill our purpose in the Earth, to build “a dwelling for God in the physical world”, one must enter the Wrath of this world, acknowledge God in it, and Overcome it.**

**AND JACOB WENT OUT FROM BE'ER SHEVA, AND HE WENT TO CHARAN**

The story of Jacob's journey to Charan is the story of every soul's descent to the physical world.

... journeys to **Charan** (literally, “**Wrath**”): a place of lies, deceptions, struggle and hardship; a place in which material concerns consume one's days and nights, sapping one's energy, confusing one's priorities, and all but obscuring the purpose for which one has come there in the first place ...

... Had Jacob remained in the Holy Land, the life of this pious scholar who lived 3,500 years ago would have been of no significance to us today.

**The soul, too, achieves its enduring significance only upon its descent into “Charan” (literally, “Wrath”). Only as a physical being, invested within a physical body and inhabiting a physical environment, can it fulfill the purpose of its creation, which is to build “a dwelling for G-d in the physical world.”**

*(From the teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe)*

2. **Genesis 28:13 – God’s promise that all peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.**

<sup>13</sup> And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. <sup>14</sup> Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and **in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.**

Jacob awoke from his dream filled with awe, delighting in the presence of the One True God; and for that reason, he called the place Bethel or Beit-El (House of God).

**In truth, though, any place can become a "house of God" when His holy Presence invades the space.**

The ancient Jewish rabbis viewed this pivotal encounter with God as **Jacob’s SPIRITUAL AWAKENING**. It is here that he entered the role of spiritual forefather, moving forward in the promises given to his grandfather, Abraham — not only to receive the land, but also to bear fruit and bring blessing to generation after generation of all peoples of the earth:

"Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. **All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.**" Genesis 28:14

3. **Genesis 28:15-17 – God’s promise that he will not leave you until he has done what he has promised you.**

<sup>15</sup> Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." <sup>16</sup> Then Jacob **awoke from his sleep** and said, "**Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.**" <sup>17</sup> And he was afraid and said, "**How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.**"

What perhaps began as a **journey of obedience** to His parents now **became a journey with God Himself:**

**"I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."** Genesis 28:15

After 22 years in Haran, it was likely difficult for Jacob to free himself from Laban’s wicked manipulation and control, but he did succeed. We can imagine that he was anticipating with great joy his return to his ancestral homeland of Canaan; however, in order to do so, he had to first pass through Edom, the territory of Esau, his estranged brother.

*And, again, a Review of the last 7 weeks of learning from the Book of Joshua, "How do we Enter into New Beginnings":*

**Now let’s Review, How do we Enter New Beginnings, from what we gleaned from last week, which was by:**

1. **Circumcising Our Hearts** (setting ourselves apart for the things of God – mind, soul, and spirit)
2. **Keeping the Passover and All of God’s Appointed Feasts and Times** (the Celebrated set futuristic time of the Redemption of mankind, by first ROLLING AWAY the REPROACH of Egypt (Passover)); **the Conception of a New Beginning.**
3. **Acknowledging Our Allegiance to God and Our Immediate Obedience (or Next Step(s) to Doing it God’s Way and Not Our Own and longer.**
4. **Conquering Evil by Elevating it or Blessing it.**
5. **Wrestling with this World and the World to Come and Prevailing.**
6. **Holding on to and Contending for the Promises of God, the Word of God; without waiver, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, verbally, and as you walk out each day of your life; declaring God’s Word as your reality and truth, ultimately Choosing Life and not Death, with the Words that come out of your Mouth, as it reflects what is truly in your heart (the eternity of God’s creation, or the shortness of this life in the flesh).**

## **Hanukkah (day 1 of 8)**

### **The Feast of Dedication and The Feast of Light**

#### **Introduction:**

By doing a study of Hanukkah, the Feast of Dedication and the feast of Light, many hidden truths concerning our Lord Jesus Christ can be discovered. The feast brings the Old and New Testaments of our Bible together in unique ways that glorify God’s son. It helps teaches us about His conception, His live birth, and His body, the church. Although the feast of Hanukkah originated many years ago, it continually points those who understand its truths to future prophetic events.

The fourfold purpose of this teaching is:

1. To describe what the Feast of Dedication is.
2. To tell the story behind its origination.
3. To connect it to our Christmas story about Jesus' birth, and
4. To present observations about the Temple's seven-branched golden lampstand and its light.

Let's begin our study by remembering that Jesus attended Hanukkah (**John 9-10:22-39**) in Jerusalem just a few months prior to His death. And while He was at the feast Jesus actually declared Himself to be the Son of God ... the Light of the world:

**John 9:5, 10:22-39**

*I and the Father Are One*

<sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, **I am the light of the world** . . . <sup>22</sup>At that time the **Feast of Dedication** took place at Jerusalem. It was winter,<sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. <sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. <sup>27</sup>**My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.** <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup>**I and the Father are one.**"

<sup>31</sup>The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. <sup>32</sup>Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" <sup>33</sup>The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God." <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'?" <sup>35</sup>If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—<sup>36</sup>do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, '**I am the Son of God**'? <sup>37</sup>If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; <sup>38</sup>but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." <sup>39</sup>Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.

**On the first night:**

*The earth was unformed and void, with darkness over the surface of the deep . . . God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night . . .*

*God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate day from night; they shall serve as signs for the set times – the days and the years; and they shall serve as lights in the expanse of the sky to shine upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights, the greater light to dominate the day and the lesser light to dominate the night, and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the sky to shine upon the earth, to dominate the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that this was good. **Genesis 1:2-5; 14-18***

**Study on the first night:**

**Jewish Name and Meaning:**

The Jewish name Hanukkah means **dedication**. The word in its various forms appears many times in the Old Testament portion of our Bible. It was used to describe the first use, the initiation, inauguration or dedication of a house, an altar or a priest. The word Hanukkah was used for the dedication of the Tabernacle in the wilderness by Moses, the dedication of the altar in Solomon's Temple, and the dedication of the Second Temple and wall around Jerusalem in the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. It is closely associated with consecration and anointing with oil. The verb form (Chanak) of the word also means to instruct or to **train up**. In Proverbs 22:6 it says, "**Train up** a child in the way he should go, when he is old he will not depart from it."

**The Feast:**

The feast itself commemorates the re-dedication of the Temple and its altar to God in the year 164 BCE (BCE means "Before Common Era" and is used by Jewish people like we use BC or "Before Christ"). Hanukkah is not described in the Old Testament portion of our Bibles because that portion ended with the prophet Malachi in 398 BCE. However, there are an additional fourteen books called the Old Testament Apocrypha. These books were written during the "400" silent years between Malachi and the birth of Jesus Christ. Although the Apocrypha is not included in the canon of Scripture

it can be found in the "Catholic Bible". The historical account of Hanukkah is found in the book, 1 Maccabees 4:36-61.

Hanukkah, the Feast of Dedication starts on the 25th of Kislev and lasts for **eight** days. That date varies according to our calendar from November 27th to December 27th. Hanukkah is also known as the **Feast of Light**, as God miraculously provided enough oil to keep the lamps on the seven-branched golden lampstand burning for the entire eight days of the feast.

During the **eight**-day feast period of Hanukkah, Jewish people read the book of Numbers chapters seven through eight in their synagogues. Chapter seven tells of Moses and the leaders of Israel anointing and consecrating the Tabernacle, its altars, and furnishings. Chapter eight deals with setting up the seven-branched golden lampstand and setting the Levites apart for sacred service.

### **The Story Behind The Feast:**

During the reign of Alexander, the Great (356 – 323 BCE) the Greeks conquered the known Biblical world (The "known Biblical world" is the area around the Mediterranean Sea. It stretched from India to France.). The Grecian period of influence lasted until 44 BCE when it was replaced by the Roman Empire. During their period of rule the Greeks forced their society, which was called Hellenism, upon the conquered people. It included their language, philosophy, religion, culture and governmental structure. The **goal** of Hellenism was a one-world order.

After Alexander the Great died, the Grecian empire was divided between his four generals: Cassander ruled in Macedon and Greece, Lysimachus in Asia Minor and Thrace, Ptolemy in Egypt and Seleucus in Mesopotamia and Persia. These four generals are referred to in the book of Daniel 8:8 and 11:4 (The Kingdom of Greece as a world power is described in Daniel chapters eight and eleven.).

One on Seleucus' descendents, Antiochus IV, ruled the Seleucid Empire (The territory included the northern and eastern portions of the Grecian Empire.) from 175 – 163 BCE. As king, he was very high on himself and even took the title "Epiphanes" which means "God Manifest." Antiochus, the villain in the story of the feast of Hanukkah, is the "little horn" or "despicable person" spoken of in Daniel 8:9 and 11:21. He is a "type" of the Antichrist who is to come and his story and character become intermingled with the Antichrist's in Daniel 8:9-12, 23-25, and 11:21-45. Similar events will occur at the time of Antichrist and the Great Tribulation.

Antiochus IV was the "supreme" Hellenizer and forced his one-world societal views on all of his subjects. The Hellenization of the Jews began in 173 BCE when Antiochus conspired with the Jewish High Priest at the time whose name was Jesus. This Jesus changed his name to Jason, a Greek name. Then in 169 BCE, Antiochus despoiled the Temple by taking its golden altar, lampstand, table of showbread, and the gold in the treasury to finance his campaigns.

Serious Hellenistic reform took place 167 BCE when a decree was issued for everyone in the empire to become one people by abandoning their own laws and religion. The Jews were forbidden from attending services in the Temple, participating in Sabbath and feast days, reading or possessing the Scriptures and circumcising their children. The penalty for failure to obey these laws was death!

On the 15th of Kislev in 167 BCE, Antiochus set up the "**abomination of desolation**" in the temple and built an altar on top of the existing altar of burnt offerings. No one knows for sure what this abomination was but many scholars have concluded that it was probably a statue of Zeus with Antiochus' face on it. Antiochus' desecration of the Temple was only a "type" of the "Abomination of Desolation" that is to come spoken of by Jesus Christ in His Olivet Discourse.

On the 25th of Kislev Antiochus sacrificed a pig on the altar and dedicated the temple to Zeus.

During this time a woman named Hannah and her seven sons were martyred for their faith. Each of the seven sons was asked in turn to bow to an idol or eat pork. Each son refused the request, professed his faith in God, and then was murdered. Upon refusal of the seventh son, both he and his mother were murdered.

A short time later, one of Antiochus' representatives entered the town of Modin to enforce the decree upon its people. He commanded one of the Jews to make a sacrifice to a foreign God. Then a priest named Mattathias Maccabees stepped forward and killed both of them thereby initiating a revolt. He led the revolt until his death later that year. Then, Judas Maccabees (The family name, Maccabees means "hammerer".), one of Matthias' five sons, took command of the resistance.

In a two-year span Judas won four major battles against superior Syrian forces and took control of Jerusalem in 164 BCE. He refurbished the temple with its furniture and utensils. Then he tore down the stones that covered the Lord's altar and had them buried. On the 25th of Kislev in 164 BCE, Judas rededicated the temple to God, exactly three years

after Antiochus dedicated it to Zeus. He ordered a feast for the occasion, which lasted eight days and became known as Hanukkah.

When the temple was rededicated on the 25<sup>th</sup> of Kislev, the lamps on the seven-branched golden lampstand were lit providing the only light in the temple. However, when the lamps were lit only one jar of sacred olive oil could be found that was not polluted because the seal of the high priest on it had not been broken. A jar of oil was only enough to keep the lamps burning for one day. Yet the lamps miraculously stayed burning for the entire eight days of the feast until more oil could be prepared and dedicated. That is why Hanukkah is also called the Feast of Light.

An interesting sidebar to this story is that Judas Maccabees was killed in a battle in 160 BCE and his brother assumed the leadership of Israel until 142 BCE. From the Maccabees came the Hasmonean line of rulers in Israel, who eventually became Hellenized themselves and oppressed their own people. King Herod the Great defeated them in 37 BCE and established his own line of rulers.

*by Michael Gibson, Key2Changes.com*

*"The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world." John 1:9*

## **Hanukkah (day 2 of 8)**

### **The Feast of Dedication and The Feast of Light**

#### **On the second night:**

*Woe to those who call evil good and good evil; who present darkness as light and light as darkness; who present bitter as sweet and sweet as bitter!*

*Woe to those who are so wise – in their own opinion; so clever – in their own judgment!*

*... For they have rejected the instruction of the Lord of Hosts, spurned the word of the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 5:20-24*

#### **Study on the second night:**

##### **The Christmas Connection:**

One of the unusual traditions that are celebrated at the feast of Hanukkah is that women always light the lamps on the menorah. The reason for this is that the rabbis (learned teachers) have said, "Women are obligated to light the Hanukkah lamps for they took part in the miracle." For the basis of this tradition they cite the Apocryphal book of Judith. But can this be? Let's do a quick summary of the story.

The story takes place according to most scholars around 650 BCE, almost 500 years before the actual commemoration of the feast itself. The story indicates the Jewish people are at war with the Assyrians (Syrians). Judith, a Jewish woman enters one of their camps. The general of the Syrian army desires her so she prepares a feast of cheese for him. Since cheese makes a person thirsty, the general drinks a lot of wine to slake his thirst and consequently falls asleep. While he is sleeping Judith beheads him. In the morning the Jews attack the Syrian army with the general's head on a pole and the Syrians flee. It is a great story, but how does it show that a woman takes place in the miracle of the lamps being lit or staying lit? The rabbis can't explain it!

However, there is one woman who qualifies to light the menorah lamps because she took part in a miracle of light ... the Virgin Mary. She brought the true light into the world and that light has continued to burn:

##### **Luke 1:24-34**

<sup>24</sup> After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, <sup>25</sup> "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

Birth of Jesus Foretold

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born<sup>[s]</sup> will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has

also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.<sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." **38** And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant<sup>[f]</sup> of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

It's all part of what we call the Christmas Story. Most Christians are familiar with the basic storyline but we'll take a more in depth look at this miracle. Before we begin though, I'll try to explain why we celebrate Jesus' birth on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

In the first 200 years of Christian history, there is no mention of the date of Jesus' birth (The first recorded mention of Jesus' birth date is 336 CE.). During that time the early church fathers considered a person's date of death worthy of celebration in view of the way he lived his life. Therefore, the date of Jesus' death was of most worthy commemoration.

It wasn't until the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries that the idea of fixing the date of Christ's birth came into being. And with it came heated controversy among the church leaders. Origen (185 – 254 CE) strongly recommended against such an innovation. He said, "In the Scriptures, no one is recorded to have kept a feast or held a great banquet on his birthday. It is only sinners who make great rejoicings over the day in which they were born into the world."

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries, various groups proposed eight specific dates during six different months for Jesus' birth. These dates were: January 6<sup>th</sup>, March 28<sup>th</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> day of Pharmuthi (April/May), 25<sup>th</sup> day of Pachon (about May), May 20<sup>th</sup>, November 18<sup>th</sup>, and December 25<sup>th</sup>. The Eastern Church chose January 6<sup>th</sup> (January 6<sup>th</sup> is called Epiphany (Appearing) but was first observed as the date of Jesus' baptism.) ... a date the Greeks had celebrated as the birth of the god Dionysus and the Egyptians as the birth of the god Osiris. Pagans commonly celebrated the birthdays of their gods, however in the Bible a birthday is never celebrated to the true God, who being eternal has no birth or day of origin.

Although one of the last dates to be proposed, December 25<sup>th</sup> was the one finally accepted by the leadership of the Western Church (The Armenian Church uses January 6<sup>th</sup> and the Eastern Orthodox Church uses January 7<sup>th</sup>). It was made popular by Pope Liberius in 354 CE and became the rule in the West when the first "Christ mass" was officiated by Pope Sixtus III. December 25<sup>th</sup> coincides with the pagan feast day of *Dies Natalis Solis Invicti* or "Birthday of the Unconquered Sun" which was celebrated as the birth of the god, Mithras, "the conqueror of darkness." This day fell within the Roman weeklong celebration of Saturnalia, a feast honoring the renewal of the sun at the winter solstice (The winter solstice is the shortest day of the year.).

#### **Why December 25<sup>th</sup>:**

From the Biblical evidence presented, it appears that Jesus Christ was conceived at or near Hanukkah. So how was the date of December 25<sup>th</sup> arrived at for the birth of Jesus Christ? No one seems to know why! Most likely it was arrived at by combining several concepts.

In eastern cultures, a child's birth is considered as having occurred at his conception rather than live birth. Those living in western cultures set birth at the moment a child takes his first breath. And it is this difference that currently fuels the abortion issue on when life begins.

As Christians most of us believe that life begins at conception. Hence, this could have led church leaders to choose a December date as being that of Christ's conception.

It also might be worth mentioning that at the time of Christ's birth, Israel an eastern culture was being ruled by Rome, a western culture. The conflict of birth may have been an issue. Hence, King Herod made a safe choice by eliminating all the children in the Bethlehem area under the age of two years.

The feast of Hanukkah begins on Kislev 25 of the Jewish calendar. The month Kislev is most closely associated with our month of December. Hence church leaders could have simply transposed the date from one calendar to another.

Confusion over dates and times connected with Biblical events has always been a problem for people raised in western cultures. The Jewish people use a lunar calendar and base their time references on what God told them to do. Western societies use a solar calendar and base their time references on those established by the Romans. Hence the reconciliation of the two calendars is difficult at best.

Church leaders knew that Hanukkah was an eight-day Feast of Light that began on the 25<sup>th</sup>. They also knew that the 25<sup>th</sup> was the birth date of the pagan god Mithras, conqueror of the darkness. And his birth date fell within the feast of Saturnalia, which was a weeklong celebration of the renewal of the sun at the winter solstice.

## The True Meaning of Hanukkah

Week 8 - PARASHA VAYISHLACH (And He Sent)  
Genesis 32:4 (3)-36:43; Obadiah 1:1-21; Ephesians 4:1-32  
"TRUST in God is Greater than all of our Praises to God"

Recognizing that Jesus Christ was the true light sent from heaven to enlighten a dark world, church leaders may have considered it convenient to substitute one feast for the other since their themes were similar. That way it would be easy to explain to pagans the good news of Jesus Christ.

by Michael Gibson, Key2Changes.com

*"Both Mithras and Christ were described variously as 'the Way,' 'the Truth,' 'the Light,' 'the Life,' 'the Word,' 'the Son of God,' 'the Good Shepherd.' The Christian litany to Jesus could easily be an allegorical litany to the sun-god. Mithras is often represented as carrying a lamb on his shoulders, just as Jesus is. Midnight services were found in both religions. The virgin mother . . . was easily merged with the virgin mother Mary. Petra, the sacred rock of Mithraism, became Peter, the foundation of the Christian Church."*

Gerald Berry, Religions of the World

*"Mithra or Mitra is . . . worshipped as Itu (Mitra-Mitu-Itu) in every house of the Hindus in India. Itu (derivative of Mitu or Mitra) is considered as the Vegetation-deity. This Mithra or Mitra (Sun-God) is believed to be a Mediator between God and man, between the Sky and the Earth. It is said that Mithra or [the] Sun took birth in the Cave on December 25th. It is also the belief of the Christian world that Mithra or the Sun-God was born of [a] Virgin. He travelled far and wide. He has twelve satellites, which are taken as the Sun's disciples . . . [The Sun's] great festivals are observed in the Winter Solstice and the Vernal Equinox - Christmas and Easter. His symbol is the Lamb . . ."*

Swami Prajnanananda, Christ the Saviour and Christ Myth

Mithra<sup>\*</sup>, known as the pagan Christ, came along into Indian/Asian culture nearly 600 years before Jesus, but only as a story of the origin of the Sun, born in a Cave, to bring inner-light into the world. It was not until the late third to late fourth century that the religion of Mithraism became popular amongst the pagan worshipers, which included a very influential leader by the name Constantine I, a Roman Emperor who ruled between 306 and 337 AD, who came into the Christian Faith, with both military and political power, beginning to single handedly change the face and doctrine of Christianity<sup>\*</sup>. A former pagan Sun worshiper himself, Constantine I took his former pagan ways, which included this worship of the many pagan gods, not excluding the god, Mithra, who began to evolve (The Many Faces of Mithra)<sup>\*</sup> into a carbon copy of Christianity, from his origin of being born from a rock in a cave, to the story developing to him being birthed from a virgin, some 800 years later.

\* The god is found as "Mithra" in the Indian Vedic religion (The Vedas are a collection of hymns and other ancient religious texts written in India between about 1500 and 1000 BCE.), which is over 3,500 years old, by conservative estimates. When the Iranians separated from their Indian brethren (400 years after the life of Moses).

\* Single handedly change the face and doctrine of Christianity. Constantine I, declared religious tolerance for Christianity in the Roman empire. He called the First Council of Nicaea in 325, which produced the statement of Christian belief known as the Nicene Creed. In regards to Public cults, Constantine I adapted to the common-day pagan cults for useful ideas and marketing strategies to advance his world dominance, including Mithraism being absorbed by the Romans, under his leadership, during their military campaigns.

\* Single handedly change the face and doctrine of Christianity. Constantine I, declared religious tolerance for Christianity in the Roman empire. He called the First Council of Nicaea in 325, which produced the statement of Christian belief known as the Nicene Creed. In regards to Public cults, Constantine I adapted to the common-day pagan cults for useful ideas and marketing strategies to advance his world dominance, including Mithraism being absorbed by the Romans, under his leadership, during their military campaigns.

\* The Many Faces of Mithra: this development of gods taking on different forms, shapes, colors, ethnicities and other attributes according to location, era and so on is not only quite common but also the norm. Thus, we have hundreds of gods and goddesses who are in many ways interchangeable but who have adopted various differences based on geographical and environmental factors . . . Over the centuries, Mithraism has been compared to Christianity, revealing numerous similarities between the two faiths' doctrines and traditions, including as concerns stories of their respective godmen. Mithra has the following in common with the Jesus character:

- Mithra was born on December 25th<sup>\*</sup> of the virgin Anahita<sup>\*</sup>.
- The babe was wrapped in swaddling clothes, placed in a manger and attended by shepherds.
- He was considered a great traveling teacher and master.
- He had 12 companions<sup>\*</sup> or "disciples".
- He performed miracles.
- As the "great bull of the Sun," Mithra sacrificed himself for world peace.
- He ascended to heaven.
- Mithra was viewed as the Good Shepherd, the "Way, the Truth and the Light," the Redeemer, the Savior, the Messiah.
- Mithra is omniscient, as he "hears all, sees all, knows all: none can deceive him."
- He was identified with both the Lion and the Lamb.
- His sacred day was Sunday, "the Lord's Day", hundreds of years before the appearance of Christ.
- His religion had a eucharist or "Lord's Supper."
- Mithra "sets his marks on the foreheads of his soldiers."
- Mithraism emphasized baptism.

## The True Meaning of Hanukkah

Week 8 - PARASHA VAYISHLACH (And He Sent)  
Genesis 32:4 (3)-36:43; Obadiah 1:1-21; Ephesians 4:1-32  
"TRUST in God is Greater than all of our Praises to God"

- \* The Mithraists believed that this night (December 25<sup>th</sup>) is the night of the birth of Mithra, Persian god of light and truth. At the morning of the longest night of the year the Mithra is born . . . The observation was thus provably taken over by Christianity, not as biblical doctrine but as a later tradition in order to compete with the Pagan cults, a move we contend occurred with numerous other "Christian" motifs, including many that *are* in the New Testament. (<http://www.truthbeknown.com/mithra.htm>)
- \* The Virgin Mother Anahita: Unlike various other rock- or cave-born gods, Mithra is not depicted in the Roman cultus as having been given birth by a mortal woman or a goddess; hence, it is claimed that he was not "born of a virgin."  
(<http://www.truthbeknown.com/mithra.htm>)
- \* The theme of the teaching god and "the Twelve" is found within Mithraism, as Mithra is depicted as surrounded by the 12 zodiac signs on a number of monuments and in the writings of Porphyry (4.16), for one. These 12 signs are sometimes portrayed as *humans* and, as they have been in the case of numerous sun gods, could be called Mithra's 12 "companions" or "disciples".  
(<http://www.truthbeknown.com/mithra.htm>)

The Indian Mitra was essentially a solar deity, representing the "friendly" aspect of the sun; the bestower of health, wealth and food. His worship purified and freed the devotee from sin and disease. Eventually, Mithra became more militant, and he is best known as a warrior. Like so many gods, Mithra was the light and power behind the sun. By the Roman legionnaires, Mithra or *Mithras*, as he began to be known in the Greco-Roman world - was called "the divine Sun, the Unconquered Sun". He was said to be "Mighty in strength, mighty ruler, greatest king of gods! O Sun, lord of heaven and earth, God of Gods!" Mithra was also deemed "the mediator" between heaven and earth, a role often ascribed to the god of the sun. (*The Roman cult seems to have taken this existing association and developed it in their own special way.* (Gordon, "FAQ." (Emph. added.))

Mithraism, also known as the Mithraic mysteries, was a Roman mystery religion centered on the god Mithras. The religion was inspired by Iranian worship of the Zoroastrian god Mithra, though the Greek *Mithras* was linked to a new and distinctive imagery, and the level of continuity between Persian and Greco-Roman practice is debated. The mysteries were popular among the Roman military from about the 1st to the 4th century CE . . . viewed as a rival of early Christianity\* . . . From this evidence we know that the cult was the last of the important mystery cults to evolve and that it thrived in the second and third centuries AD and waned in the fourth as elite patronage was gradually transferred to Christianity . . . In the 4th century, Mithraists faced persecution from Christians and the religion was subsequently suppressed and eliminated in the empire by the end of the century; . . . No written narratives or theology from the religion survive . . . Interpretation of the physical evidence remains problematic and contested.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mithraism>

\* "And He said, "See to it that you be not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' ('I am the Christ') and, 'The time is at hand'; do not go after them." **Matthew 24:4-8, Mark 13:5-8, Luke 21:8-11**

"Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you in advance. If therefore they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go forth, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them. For just as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather." **Matthew 24:23-28, Mark 13:21-23**

As to the year of Jesus' birth it too is the subject of much debate. In 525 CE, Pope John 1 commissioned the scholar Dionysius Exiguus to establish a feast calendar for the Church. Unfortunately, because of insufficient historical data at the time he arrived at a date at least a few years later than the actual event. The Gospels record Jesus' birth as occurring during the reign of Herod the Great. Herod's death according to the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus occurred in the spring of 4 BCE. Therefore, Christ's birth had to take place before that date.

Most current Biblical scholars using modern research methods are in agreement that Jesus' birth occurred in either the months of September or October, at or near the feast of Tabernacles in one of the years of 5 or 4 BCE. With that as a basis, the Virgin Mary would have conceived Jesus during the feast of Hanukkah in the previous year.

The four primary evidences presented in the case of Jesus' birth are as follows:

1. He was born in the years 5 or 4 BCE.
  - a. Based on the date of Herod's death (This date has been contested with some suggesting a date of January 29, 1 BCE as the date of Herod's death. The evidence for his death is based on the observance of a lunar eclipse prior to his death. There were observable lunar eclipses only in the years 5 BCE, 4 BCE and 1BCE.).
  - b. Herod's killing of children under two years of age.
  - c. Jesus' age at his baptism and the beginning of His ministry in connection with the known dates of Tiberius Caesar's reign.
  - d. Jesus death fulfilling the Passover on the correct days.
2. The census of Quirinius.



- a. The census required everyone to travel to his own city. This would not have occurred during winter.
  - b. Since it involved taxation it would have naturally occurred near the end of the harvest season in late summer or early autumn.
3. The shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. It is generally agreed that this would never occur after October 31 due to the cold temperatures.
4. The evidence surrounding the birth of John the Baptist.
- a. Zechariah, John the Baptist's father was a priest in the line of Abijah, which stood eighth in the order of service. Each of the twenty-four lines of priests served twice a year in their order beginning on the first day of the month Aviv (Aviv is the first month of God's calendar. It falls within our March/April time frame. The Jewish people currently call this month Nisan.). All the priests served an additional week at each of the three feasts that all the men of Israel were required to attend: Unleavened Bread, Weeks and Tabernacles.
  - b. Therefore, Zechariah would have been serving on the 10<sup>th</sup> week or about mid-June.
  - c. Zechariah and Elizabeth conceived John the Baptist after the angel spoke to Zechariah while he was serving.
  - d. It appears that John the Baptist was born at or near Passover the following year.
  - e. Each year during the Passover meal a special cup of wine (the Cup of Elijah) is set apart awaiting the return of the Prophet Elijah. This is done in accordance with the last two verses in the Old Testament from the prophet Malachi 4:5-6. They read, *“Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse.”*

When the angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah in the Temple, he used very similar words concerning Zechariah's future son, John the Baptist. The angel said, *“And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”* **Luke 1:16-17**

On the Mount of Transfiguration, three of Jesus' disciples saw Moses and Elijah. After that they asked Jesus about the coming of Elijah. *“Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”* And He answered and said, *“Elijah is coming and will restore all things; but I say to you that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also, the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.”* Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist.” **Matthew 17:10-13**

- f. John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin was born six months prior to Jesus. Therefore, Jesus would have been born in September or October at or near the feast of Tabernacles.

*by Michael Gibson, Key2Changes.com*

*“The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.”* **John 1:9**

**Teaser:** To this very day, the descendants of Jacob (Israel) still struggle with this Divine Man who is Yeshua HaMashiach (the Messiah).

**Week 8 - PARASHA VAYISHLACH (And He Sent)**  
**Genesis 32:4 (3)–36:43; Obadiah 1:1–21; Ephesians 4:1–32**

**“TRUST in God is Greater than all of our Praises to God”**

*“And Jacob sent [vayishlach נָשְׂאָ] messengers ahead of him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom.”* **Genesis 32:4[3]**

**This Week: Genesis 32:3-36:43**

**Timeline of Jacob's Sojourn in Haran (referenced to Jacob's age)**

- **Jacob** and Esau were born when **Isaac was 60 years old** (Ge 25:26), approximately 15 years before the death of Abraham (Ge 21:5, Ge 25:7).
- Now, in view of **Ge 26:1**, we can infer that Isaac went to Gerar after Abraham died, that is, when **Jacob** was more than **15 years old**.

- **Jacob** was **40 years old** at the time of **Ge 26:34**.
- **Age 57 - Jacob** leaves Canaan and comes to Haran
- **Age 64 - Jacob** marries Leah and Rachel, begins having children
- **Age 65 - Jacob** begins having children by Leah
- **Age 76 - Jacob** probably has last of children by Leah (Dinah)
- **Isaac** and Rebecca's son **Jacob** was sent to Padan-aram (home of Rebecca's brother Laban) to avoid the wrath of his brother **Esau**. **Jacob came to Padan-aram** when he was 91-14 = **77 years old**.
- **Jacob** was about **91 years old** when Joseph was born. As we read in Ge 37:3, Joseph was a "son of his old age". While Benjamin was younger than Joseph, he was just a little child at the time of Ge 37:3, when Jacob regarded Joseph as a son of his old age.
- **97 - Esau again tries to kill Jacob & Jacob named Israel (Gen 32)**
- The passage in which Isaac sends **Jacob** to Padan-aram (**Ge 28**) takes place later. The age of **Jacob** at that time could be calculated as follows:
  - Isaac lived 180 years (**Ge 35:28**). Thus, **Jacob** was about **120 years old** when Isaac died. Joseph was about 29 years old at that time.
  - Now, Joseph was 30 years old "when he stood before Pharaoh" (Ge 41:46).
  - Joseph was about  $30+7+(7-5) = 39$  years old when **Jacob** was 130 years old when he came to Egypt (Ge 47:9).
  - As stated in **Ge 47:28**, **Jacob died 147 years old** and he lived 17 years in Egypt.

<http://hisword sarepure.com/TheLifeOfJacob.htm>  
<https://sites.google.com/site/calendarstudies/genesis-28-9>

#### **Genesis 35:16-36:43**

*The Deaths of Rachel and Isaac*

<sup>16</sup> Then they journeyed from Bethel. When they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel went into labor, and she had hard labor. <sup>17</sup> And when her labor was at its hardest, the midwife said to her, "Do not fear, for you have another son."<sup>18</sup> And as her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name **Ben-oni** ("son of my grief"); but his father called him Benjamin ("son of the right"). <sup>19</sup> **So Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).**

#### **Genesis 31:25-32**

*Jacob Flees from Laban*

<sup>25</sup> And Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsmen pitched tents in the hill country of Gilead. <sup>26</sup> And Laban said to Jacob, . . . <sup>30</sup> And now you have gone away because you longed greatly for your father's house, but **why did you steal my gods?** <sup>31</sup> Jacob answered and said to Laban, "Because I was afraid, for I thought that you would take your daughters from me by force. <sup>32</sup> **Anyone with whom you find your gods shall not live.** In the presence of our kinsmen point out what I have that is yours, and take it." Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.

**"ANYONE WITH WHOM YOU FIND YOUR GODS, LET HIM NOT LIVE" .... FOR JACOB KNEW NOT THAT RACHEL HAD STOLEN THEM (31:32)**

It was because of these words spoken by Jacob that Rachel died in childbirth shortly thereafter.

*(Midrash Rabbah)*

#### **Genesis 35:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> and Jacob set up a pillar over her tomb. It is the pillar of Rachel's tomb, which is there to this day. <sup>21</sup> **Israel journeyed on and pitched his tent beyond the TOWER of Eder.**

### **Biblical Prophecy of the Future Birth of Our Messiah**

Although the New Testament does not tell us where **in Bethlehem Jesus was born**, the Old Testament does. **Micah 4:8** states:

*"And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem."* Thus, the Old Testament clearly states that the Messiah would be born at the **"TOWER of the flock"** (Hebrew: *Migdal Edar*).

**An Amazing Story and Biblical Prophecy that falls every year during the season of Hanukah. The continuation of one of the Greatest Stories and Prophecies ever written in Scripture, playing out right in front of our eyes during this very special Appointed Time in God's Heart to Reveal His Redemption of Mankind from the Beginning of Time:**

#### **Genesis 3:15**

<sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring;

he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel."

## Parallel Illustration & Endtimes Prophecy and Fulfillment: Idol Worship & The Catholic Church - Revelation 2:18-29:

### - The Letter to the Church at Thyatira - Revelation 2:18-29

#### The Meaning of the Name: "Perpetual sacrifice" or "continual offering"

**Revelation:** *The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze. Jesus Christ who is able to see and judge all things.*

**Commendation:** *I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.*

**Criticism:** *But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray, so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 'And I gave her time to repent; and she does not want to repent of her (sexual) immorality. Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works. A woman with the name of Jezebel cannot be identified with the Church in any literal sense; however, her identity can be discovered on a spiritual level by using information from the Bible concerning her.*

**Instruction:** *But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them-- I place no other burden on you. 'Nevertheless, what you have, hold fast until I come. Keep doing what you were doing and don't become involved in this teaching.*

**Penalty:** *Behold, I will cast her upon a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. 'And I will kill her children with pestilence; and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. Christ will make her a whore (to be used by the nations) and those who have relationships (agree) with her will suffer great tribulation and their children will be killed by plagues (Beginning in the 1340's, the Black Death (Bubonic Plague) hit the continent of Europe decimating between 30 to 60% of its population, which dealt the Roman Catholic Church a devastating blow. An estimated 75 million people died in that pandemic alone. Yet there were to be more than 100 other plague epidemics, which would sweep over Europe within the next 400 years.)*

**Promise:** *He who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. I see what you are doing and will reward you according to your deeds, do the deeds that I did because they honor the Father. If you overcome, I will give you a day on which you will rule and reign over the nations because all power and authority has been given to Me by My Father.*

The Church (787 – 1517 AD) became corrupted from within and the corruption came in three parts: #1 **worship**, #2 **doctrine**, and #3 **leadership**. . . . *again a Picture of Endtime Events and Prophecy!*

This age of the Church (The Medieval Age) is associated with "*parable of the leaven*." In the parable a woman hides leaven in three parts of a measure until all of it is changed. Before continuing with this Church "age" we need to know more about leaven.

Leaven is a corrupting agent that **changes the nature** of the substance it is put into. In the parable, leaven was put in three portions of meal. The three portions represent the whole thing that was leavened. By this, Jesus is indicating that every human being consists of **three parts**: spirit, soul, and body. So when leaven is introduced into each of the parts, **the entire nature of the person will be changed**. But more importantly we must know what the spiritual **equivalent** of leaven is. **Jesus said it was teaching!** *And Jesus said to them, "Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Then they understood that He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Matthew 16:6 & 12*

#### - Corruption of Worship -

The changes that were made in the worship of God during this period of time were stupendous both in their nature and quantity. Ritualism was in vogue . . . as pagan teaching, ceremonies and practices entered the Church.

Images were placed in churches in violation of the Second Commandment under the pretense that it was enhancing the worshipper's experience.

And the simple "breaking of bread" or "communion" became a ritual all of its own, called the "Mass", officiated over by a group of people known as the clergy. The Mass centers on a priest who offers Christ as a sacrifice at each service and then supernaturally changes bread and wine into Christ's body and blood, which the congregants partake of. **This repeated offering of Christ as a sacrificial victim at each Mass is a violation of Scripture.**

that was in Thyatira whose name, "Perpetual **Sacrifice**" or "continual offering", fits so perfectly.

#### - Corruption of Doctrine -

In 1075, Pope Gregory VII issued the decree "*Dictatus Papae*" that contained 27 statements of powers ascribed to the Pope. Among them are: "He himself can be judged by no one . . . the Roman Church has never erred, nor ever, by the witness of Scripture, shall err to all eternity . . . papal infallibility . . . forbade reading the Bible in the common language . . . ordered the extermination of heretics . . . only those ordained as priests may grant absolution from sin . . . cult of the saints . . . prayers for the saints"

**- Corruption of Leadership -**

Church leadership became more and more involved with secular power as evidenced with the formation of the **Holy Roman Empire**.

**Daniel 2:1-49**

*Nebuchadnezzar's Dream & Daniel Interprets the Dream*

<sup>31</sup> "You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. <sup>32</sup> The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, <sup>33</sup> its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. <sup>34</sup> As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. <sup>35</sup> Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. **But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.**

... <sup>41</sup> And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it shall **be a divided kingdom**, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay. <sup>42</sup> And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. <sup>43</sup> As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so **they will mix with one another in marriage**, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. <sup>44</sup> **And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever.** <sup>45</sup> **just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.**"

*Daniel Is Promoted*

... <sup>47</sup> The king answered and said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery."

**Holy Roman Empire Reborn**

*EndTime.com - Irvin Baxter*

NOW, THE ROMANS WERE SYMBOLIZED IN THE PROPHECY ABOUT ALL THESE WORLD EMPIRES AS THE LEGS OF IRON.

**THE ROMAN ELEMENT IS KEPT AS WE MOVE FROM 300 A.D. UNTIL FINALLY 800 A.D., BECAUSE IT WAS IN 800 A.D. THAT THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE WAS BORN.**

NOW, THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE ARE NOT THE SAME EMPIRE.

THE ROMAN EMPIRE WAS A TOTALLY SECULAR EMPIRE, BUT THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, AS ITS NAME DEPICTS, IS TO BE A UNION, AN ALLIANCE OF CHURCH AND STATE, OF POLITICS AND RELIGION.

**THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE WAS ACTUALLY BORN IN 800 A.D., WHEN POPE LEO THE THIRD PLACED THE CROWN ON THE HEAD OF CHARLEMAGNE, ANNOUNCING THAT HE WAS NOW THE EMPEROR OF, WATCH THIS, THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE.**

SO, WHEN THE BIBLE DEPICTS THE FEET OF IRON MINGLED WITH CLAY, THE IRON WAS THE ROMAN ELEMENT, BUT THE CLAY WAS THE RELIGIOUS ELEMENT.

**THEY'RE JOINED TOGETHER AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED ON DECEMBER 25, 800 A.D. WHEN POPE LEO THE THIRD PUT THE CROWN ON THE HEAD OF CHARLEMAGNE.**

FROM THAT TIME ON, THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE RULED THE WORLD, MOSTLY, FOR THE NEXT 1000 YEARS.

AND THE LEADERS THAT RULED THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE WERE ALWAYS A DUAL LEADERSHIP.

**ALWAYS THE POLITICAL LEADER FROM EUROPE AND THE SPIRITUAL LEADER EVERY SINGLE TIME FROM ITALY.**

IT WAS A COMBINATION OF THE POLITICAL LEADER AND THE SPIRITUAL LEADER, AND OF COURSE, **THE SPIRITUAL LEADER WAS ALWAYS THE POPE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, OF THE VATICAN.**

... A LOT OF PEOPLE SAY THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE CEASED TO EXIST IN 1806 WITH THE LAST EMPIRE DECAYING, THE LAST ELEMENT OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE.

BUT IT'S NOT TRUE.

**... IT ACTUALLY WAS REBORN ON NOVEMBER 3, 2009.**

**ONE OF THE FIVE GREATEST PROPHETIC FULFILLMENTS IN THE LAST 2000 YEARS,**

*IS THAT REALLY TRUE, OR AM I SIMPLY READING SOMETHING INTO THIS THAT'S NOT THERE?*

WELL, THEY DECIDED THEY WOULD START PRINTING MONEY.

THE FIRST MONEY WAS PRINTED IN 1987, A COIN CALLED THE ECU, THE EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT.

**AND WHEN THEY DECIDED TO PRINT THEIR FIRST MONEY AS THE EUROPEAN UNION, THEY WERE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE'S PICTURE THAT WOULD REALLY CONVEY THE MEANING OF WHAT WAS GOING ON.**

.. THEY PUT THE PICTURE OF **CHARLEMAGNE** (which is also the name of the UN Building in Brussels Belgium, which also includes a statue out of the building of the Whore on top of a Beast, of the Book of Revelation, which is representative of the Church, the whore, and the Nations, the beast, and their holy union; as well as, the UN also offers the Charlemagne Award for world leaders who best represent the UN, who Bill Clinton was one of their first recipients; and including a monthly Charlemagne publication).

REMEMBER, HE WAS THE FIRST EMPEROR OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE.

POPE LEO THE THIRD PLACED THE CROWN ON HIS HEAD ON CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25, 800 A.D.

**WAS IT BECAUSE THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY WERE ACTUALLY PRESIDING OVER THE REBIRTH OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE?**

**YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT.**

This period of time is also referred to as the **Midnight** of the Dark Ages as its popes were full of bribery, corruption, immorality and bloodshed. In history the period from 904-963 AD is called the "Rule of the Harlots". The popes after this period sold their offices and robbed Christians. Most bishops and priests had paid for their offices, for it gave them a chance to live in luxury.

Many other popes had concubines, mistresses and illegitimate children. They sold and granted indulgences to sin, sold offices, and decreed that money would deliver souls from purgatory.

- Jezebel -

Perhaps no other Old Testament character has had such a profound impact upon the people of God as Jezebel. Her leadership plagued the people of Israel in her time. And Jesus in the book of Revelation even warns the Church not to tolerate her. She epitomizes evil and has become a symbol of all that is detestable from a moral standpoint.

**The first mention of Jezebel is in 1 Kings 16:31 on the occasion of her marriage to King Ahab of Israel in the year 889 BC. Jezebel is not an Israelite, one of God's chosen people. She is a foreigner, a pagan and an idol worshipper. Jezebel is the daughter of Ethbaal (which means "with Baal"), king of Tyre and Sidon.**

There is a spiritual clue here for us. In Ezekiel 28, God speaks against the king of Tyre. According to the text, **the King of Tyre is really Satan**, the anointed cherub. **By association, Jezebel is the daughter of Satan.** The daughter of Satan marries the leader of Israel in order to corrupt God's people. Satan's master plan is and always has been the destruction of God's people. And Satan knows that God will destroy His own people if they turn away from Him.

After becoming queen of Israel, Jezebel instituted the worship of Baal, had an altar and temple built for him and erected Asherah (ancient middle-eastern goddess, wife of the supreme god . . . as mother goddess she was widely worshiped . . . frequently paired with Baal.) . . . She has infected the entire Church with false teaching and immorality. I of Constantinople in order to secure image worship again. Image worship was approved and still stands today.

Today we will see this real **TRUTH** come to light when we learn of Rachel's death in child birth in fulfillment of the Scriptures . . . of which we will pick-up next week in continuing this message of the "True Meaning of Hanukkah".