

12/14/12

The True Miracle of Hanukkah

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Torah Portion

I Kings 8:44 – 51

44 “When Your people go out to battle against their enemy, wherever You send them, and when they pray to the L-RD toward the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name, 45 then hear in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

46 “When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to the land of the enemy, far or near; 47 yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of those who took them captive, saying, ‘We have sinned and done wrong, we have committed wickedness’; 48 and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who led them away captive, and pray to You toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name: 49 then hear in heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause, 50 and forgive Your people who have sinned against You, and all their transgressions which they have transgressed against You; and grant them compassion before those who took them captive, that they may have compassion on them 51 (for they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out of Egypt, out of the iron furnace),

Service Portion

- 1) It’s time for the righteous to do righteous acts

Psalm 2:1 – 3

Why do the nations rage,
And the people plot a vain thing?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves,

And the rulers take counsel together,
Against the L-rd and against His Anointed, saying,
3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces
And cast away Their cords from us."

We know that salvation is by grace though faith alone but that because righteousness is imputed to us by faith does not mean we should not do righteous acts and act with bravery and courage in the face of evil and injustice.

You see the true miracle of Chanukah was when the righteous decided they could no longer sit by in the face of evil and just watch or complain how evil evil was, they had to act and even out their lives on the line.

Such as Esther in the Purim story, such as Judah(the hammer) Macabee and his brothers acted in the face of the Syro Phoenician defilement of the Temple and abuse of G-d's people. Both were already righteous by faith, imputed righteous but they added righteous action to their faith as well and G-d honored them both against overwhelming odds. HE fought for those who were willing to fight for those who had no voice. It has always been the righteous few that G-d has stood with against what seemed like insurmountable odds

You see, it is not just about our righteousness and our being right with G-d that is at stake, for most of us here who are already believers that is already established. The lives and souls of others are now at stake and G-d is waiting for us to act on their behalf.

2) Don't allow what is Holy to be profaned

Psalms 2:4 – 6

4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;
The L-RD shall hold them in derision.
5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,
And distress them in His deep displeasure:
6 "Yet I have set My King
On My holy hill of Zion."

John 10:22 -28

Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. 23 And Yeshua walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch. 24 Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Messiah, tell us plainly."
25 Yeshua answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. 26 But you do not believe, because you are

not of My sheep, as I said to you. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

Luke 21:20-24

"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. 21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. 22 For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. 24 And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Amos 9:13 – 15 (New living translation)

13 "The time will come," says the L-RD, "when the grain and grapes will grow faster than they can be harvested. Then the terraced vineyards on the hills of Israel will drip with sweet wine! 14 I will bring my exiled people of Israel back from distant lands, and they will rebuild their ruined cities and live in them again. They will plant vineyards and gardens; they will eat their crops and drink their wine. 15 I will firmly plant them there in their own land. They will never again be uprooted from the land I have given them," says the L-RD your G-d.

3) Will you be a Judah Maccabee?

Abstaining is voting against, because of political correctness the British abstained.
Woman on bus example.

There were nine nations that voted against Palestinian Unilateral Statehood Declaration Including Israel 138 For And 41 Abstained, so only eight had the courage to act righteously.

Britain abstained, woman on bus example

Abstaining is being too spineless to make any decision so no one knows where you stand, by so doing you allow evil to prevail and prosper.

A believer who abstains has a biblical term, it's called lukewarm, neither hot or cold, useless for coffee to warm you on a cold day and useless to cool you down on a hot day. Useless is not something we want to be.

We are called to be salt and light. I hate bullies; right now Israel is being bullied by the nations. They are not the bully as some are trying to depict them.

The USA, Canada, Micronesia, the Czech Republic, the Marshall Islands, Panama, Nauru And Palau. Notice, many of those who voted against were small and I never new existed until I heard about the vote, G-d often does great things with small and unknown things. Corinthians, says, not many of you were noble.... G-d uses the things that are not to nullify the things that are and to do great things, that is G-d's way, it always will be. No one ever believed George Washington had any hope of winning against the British, but he dared to act and so here we sit! G-d is looking for heroes who will make a stand for what is right and be a voice for him.

Micronesia comes from the Greek word mikros meaning small and nosos meaning island. Over 600 islands with only 100 being inhabited. The capital city is Palikir with a population of 4571 at the last census.

Population is about 103 000, average national income about 3000 per person, national debt only 84 million.

Nauru is a tiny island group of islands in the pacific of 10 000 people, mostly Micronesians. They just joined the south pacific tourism organisation so that people would know they exist and go and visit their beautiful island. They could have said, we won't vote, no one will know who we are, what matters are the big nations!

Palau is an island nation in the pacific consisting mostly of Micronesians and Far East peoples. It has a population of 21 000 spread over 250 islands; the capital is Ngerulmud on the island of Babeldaob.

Of the nine against Palestinian declaration of statehood, one was Israel and three were independent Micronesian islands.

Do you sometimes feel like a Micronesia, a small island in a sea of great nations? You can make a difference; you can take a stand!

All scriptures NKJV unless otherwise noted

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