

A BMC Teens Hanukkah Devotional 12/11/15 – Compiled by Henri Louis Goulet

1. חֲנֻכָּה – The word appears in Psalm 30:1
2. What does the word basically mean? _____
3. Does it appear in the list of holidays in Leviticus 23? _____
4. Why not? _____
5. It was actually the late celebration of Sukkot due to the Hellenization Crisis of 175-160BCE (see Daniel 7-12; and read 1 & 2 Maccabees critically) (see especially 2 Maccabees 10)
6. The displacement of Torah as the central governing document of Judea / Jerusalem
7. Judaism proscribed = prohibited = outlawed (see, e.g., 2 Maccabees 4:10-11)
8. "Abomination of desolation" (see Daniel and 1 Maccabees 1:41-59)
9. Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucids: Mattathias & his sons, the most famous being Judas Maccabeus, finally results in the "rededication of the temple"
10. Josephus' Antiquities 12 tells of the establishment of the 8 day "Festival of Lights"
11. Texts such as the Aramaic *Megillat Antiochus* tell of finding only one bowl of oil sealed with the signet ring of the High Priest on the day of rededication, which burned for 8 days (until new oil was ready).
12. Yeshua is seen celebrating Hanukkah in Yochanan (John) 10:22-24 in the very rededicated temple, albeit a few generations later
13. The traditional celebration is not a celebration of war, but a celebration of lights (the lamps of the menorah)
14. Let us pray DAILY that the answer to the question in Yochanan 10:24 would dawn upon the larger Jewish Community! Let us pray it especially during Hanukkah!
15. Let us be bold to share the light of Yeshua! While He was in the world He was the light of the world. He is seen as the light of the world now primarily THROUGH US, His followers! Are you walking in the light? Are you letting your light shine in this dark moment of history? Are you one of the persons making a difference in G-d's 21st century history by making Yeshua the light known?