

Re-examining Chanuka

A Rabbinic, Prophetic, or Universal holiday?

Source sheet for TIM shiur by Menachem Leibtag/

Why Rabbinic?

b/c the miracle happened way after Tanach was closed
[and not mentioned in any of the Biblical books]

Why Prophetic?

There is a date very close to Chanuka with great
religious significance at the beginning of 2nd Temple period

Why Universal?

Is it just by chance that it falls out at the same time of year as a
famous Christian (& ancient Roman) holiday?

I. Prophetic importance of “erev Chanuka” = 24 Kislev [Possibly Prophetic / b/c the time period was pathetic!]

Book of Chagai – chapter 2:

- 10 In the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying:
- 11 'Thus saith the LORD of hosts: Ask now the priests for instruction, saying:
- 12 If one bear hallowed flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any food, shall it be holy?' And the priests answered and said: 'No.'
- 13 Then said Haggai: 'If one that is unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean?' And the priests answered and said: 'It shall be unclean.'
- 14 Then answered Haggai, and said: 'So is this people, and so is this nation before me, saith the LORD; and so is every work of their hands; and that which they offer there is unclean.
- 15 And now, I pray you, consider from this day and forward--before a stone was laid
- בַּעֲשָׂרִים וָאַרְבָּעָה לַתְּשִׁיעִי, בְּשֵׁנֶת שְׁתַּיִם, לְדַרְיוֹשׁ--הִיָּה, דְּבַר-יְהוָה, אֶל-חַגִּי הַנְּבִיא, לֵאמֹר.
- יֵא כֹה אָמַר, יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת: שְׁאַל-נָא אֶת-הַכֹּהֲנִים תּוֹרָה, לֵאמֹר.
- יב הֲוּ יִשָּׂא-אִישׁ בְּשֵׁר-קֹדֶשׁ בְּכַנֵּף בְּגָדוֹ, וְנָגַע בְּכַנְפוֹ אֶל-הַלֶּחֶם וְאֶל-הַנֶּזֶיד וְאֶל-הַיַּיִן וְאֶל-שֶׁמֶן וְאֶל-כָּל-מִאֲכָל--הִיִּקְדָּשׁ; וַיֵּעֲנוּ הַכֹּהֲנִים וַיֹּאמְרוּ, לֹא.
- יג וַיֹּאמֶר חַגִּי, אִם-יִגַע טְמֵא-נֶפֶשׁ בְּכָל-אֵלֶּה הִיִּטְמָא; וַיֵּעֲנוּ הַכֹּהֲנִים וַיֹּאמְרוּ, יִטְמָא.
- יד וַיַּעַן חַגִּי וַיֹּאמֶר, כִּן הָעַם-הַזֶּה וְכִן-הַגּוֹי הַזֶּה לְפָנַי נְאֻם-יְהוָה, וְכִן, כָּל-מַעֲשֵׂה יְדֵיהֶם; וְאֲשֶׁר יִקְרִיבוּ שָׁם, טְמֵא הוּא.
- טו וְעַתָּה שְׂיִמוּ-נָא לְבַבְכֶם, מִן-הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה

וּמַעֲלָה; מִטָּרִם שׁוֹם-אֶבֶן אֶל-אֶבֶן, בְּהִכֵּל יְהוָה.

טז מֵהַיּוֹתֵם בָּא אֶל-עֶרְמַת עֶשְׂרִים, וְהִיתָה עֲשָׂרָה; בָּא אֶל-הֵיקָב, לַחֲשֹׁף חֲמִשִּׁים פּוּרָה, וְהִיתָה, עֶשְׂרִים.

upon a stone in the temple of the LORD,

16 through all that time, when one came to a heap of twenty measures, there were but ten; when one came to the winevat to draw out fifty press-measures, there were but twenty;

יז הִכִּיתִי אֶתְכֶם בְּשֹׁדֶפּוֹן וּבִירְקוֹן, וּבִבְרָד--אֵת, כָּל-מַעֲשֵׂה יְדֵיכֶם; וְאִין-אֶתְכֶם אֵלַי, נְאֻם-יְהוָה.

17 I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the work of your hands; yet ye turned not to Me, saith the LORD--

יח שְׂיִמוּ-נָא לְבַבְכֶם מִן-הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה וּמַעֲלָה; מִיּוֹם עֲשָׂרִים וָאַרְבָּעָה לַתְּשִׁיעִי, לְמִן-הַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר-יִסַּד הִיכַל-יְהוָה--שְׂיִמוּ לְבַבְכֶם.

18 consider, I pray you, from this day and forward, from the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, even from the day that the foundation of the LORD'S temple was laid, consider it;

יט הָעוֹד הַזֶּרַע, בְּמַגּוּרָה, וְעַד-הַגָּפֶן וְהַתְּאֵנָה וְהַרְמוֹן וְעֵץ הַזֵּית, לֹא נִשְׂא-- מִן-הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה, אֲבָרָךְ. {ס}

19 is the seed yet in the barn? yea, the vine, and the fig-tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive-tree hath not brought forth--from this day will I bless you.' {S}

כ וַיְהִי דְבַר-יְהוָה שְׁנִית אֶל-חַגִּי, בְּעֶשְׂרִים וָאַרְבָּעָה לַחֹדֶשׁ לֵאמֹר.

20 And the word of the LORD came the second time unto Haggai in the four and twentieth day of the month, saying:

כא אָמַר, אֶל-זְרֻבָּבֶל פַּחַת-יְהוּדָה לֵאמֹר: אֲנִי מְרַעֵשׁ, אֶת-הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת-הָאָרֶץ.

21 'Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying: I will shake the heavens and the earth;

כב וְהִפַּכְתִּי, כִּסֵּא מַמְלָכוֹת, וְהִשְׁמַדְתִּי, חֹזֶק מַמְלָכוֹת הַגּוֹיִם; וְהִפַּכְתִּי מְרֻכָּבָה, וְרֻכְבָּיָהּ, וַיִּרְדּוּ סוּסִים וְרֻכְבֵּיהֶם, אִישׁ בַּחֶרֶב אָחִיו.

22 and I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother.

כג בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא נְאֻם-יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת אֶקְחֶךָ זְרֻבָּבֶל בֶּן-שֵׁאלְתִיאל עַבְדִּי, נְאֻם-יְהוָה, וְשִׁמְתִּיךָ, כַּחוֹתֶם: כִּי-בָדַד בַּחֲרַתִּי, נְאֻם יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת.

23 In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, My servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the LORD, and will make thee as a signet; for I have chosen thee, saith the LORD of hosts.'

We return to this topic in next week's shiur

II. Why Universal? Possibly a universal holiday relating the winter solstice

The winter solstice & Chanuka:

K] Talmud Bavli- Tractate Avoda Zara 8b

MISHNA: These are the festivals of the heathens: *Kalends, Saturnalia...*

GEMARA: The rabbis taught: Adam [the first man], when he noticed that each day became shorter and shorter, he cried: Woe is to me, for the world becomes darker and darker - **because of my sin**, and it seems to be returning to 'chaos and ruin'; and this is my death which was decreed by heaven.

He arose and fasted and prayed eight days. Thereafter, he noticed the 'winter solstice', **as the days become longer**, he understood that such is the cycle of the world, and celebrated for eight days. The next year, he also proclaimed the eight days on which he had fasted as holidays. **He established them to laud heaven**; his descendants, however, made them holidays for the idols.

J] . Talmud Bavli -Tractate Shabbat 21b

The rabbis taught: The law of Hanukah: **one candle** for each household. **Those who seek to fulfil it well-** one candle for each person. **Those who seek to fulfil the law in the best possible manner:** Beth Shamai says- the first night light eight candles, and every following night one flame less. According to Beth Hillel [the reverse] -

***What is 'Hanukah?** The rabbis taught: "On the twenty-fifth day of Kislev Hanukah commences and lasts eight days, on which lamenting the dead and fasting are prohibited. When the Hellenists entered the sanctuary, they defiled all the oil. When the Hasmoneans prevailed and conquered them, oil was sought (to light the Menorah) and **only one vial was found with the seal** of the high priest intact. [Even though] the vial contained sufficient oil for one day only, a miracle occurred, and they **lit from it** for eight days. The following year - these 8 days were established as days of Praise and Thanksgiving.

תלמוד בבלי מסכת עבודה זרה דף ח עמוד א

דף ח,א משנה: ואלו אידיהן של עובדי כוכבים גמרא: אמר רב חנן בר רבא: קלנדא - ח' ימים אחר תקופה; סטרנורא - ח' ימים לפני תקופה. ת"ר לפי שראה אדם הראשון יום שמתמעט והולך, אמר אוי לי שמא בשביל שסרחתי עולם חשוך בעדי וחוזר לתוהו ובוהו - וזו היא מיתה שנקנסה עלי מן השמים. עמד וישב ח' ימים בתענית ובתפלה; כיון שראה תקופת טבת, וראה יום שמאריך והולך - אמר: מנהגו של עולם הוא! הלך ועשה שמונה ימים טובים. לשנה האחרת עשאן לאלו ולאלו ימים טובים. הוא קבעם לשם שמים, והם קבעום לשם עבודת כוכבים.

תלמוד בבלי מסכת שבת דף כא עמוד ב

ת"ר מצות חנוכה, נר איש וביתו והמהדרין - נר לכל אחד ואחד והמהדרין מן המהדרין- ב"ש אומרים: יום ראשון מדליק שמנה מכאן ואילך פוחת והולך - וב"ה אומרים: יום ראשון מדליק אחת מכאן ואילך מוסיף והולך ... * מאי חנוכה דתנו רבנן: בכ"ה בכסליו יומי דחנוכה תמניא אינון; דלא למספד בהון ודלא להתענות בהון. - שכשנכנסו יוונים להיכל טמאו כל השמנים שבהיכל, וכשגברה מלכות בית חשמונאי ונצחום - בדקו ולא מצאו אלא פך אחד של שמן, שהיה מונח בחותמו של כהן גדול. ולא היה בו אלא להדליק יום אחד - נעשה בו נס, והדליקו ממנו שמונה ימים! לשנה אחרת - קבעום, ועשאום ימים טובים בהלל והודאה.

**How to find the winter solstice on a Jewish calendar?
Solar & Lunar**

Let's look at table for moonrise for month of December

<https://www.timeanddate.com/moon/israel/jerusalem>

**noting moonrise and illumination
in contrast to length of the day**

**Possibly, lighting candles this time of year, may be a symbol of hope during the
darkest nights of the year**

[not just shortest day, but also DARKEST nights, not longest]

What are the 8 darkest nights of any month?

The last 6 days and first two days of the next month

If spring equinox must fall out in the FIRST month (otherwise we add)

Then winter solstice is 9 months later,

and hence will happen in either the 9th or 10th month

Hence, the 8 darkest nights of the year are EXACTLY the 8 days of Chanuka

III. Historic & Prophetic background to the 2nd year of Darius:

A] Ezra Chapter 1 – The beginning of the 2nd Temple Period

- א** וּבִשְׁנַת אַחַת, לְכוֹרֵשׁ מֶלֶךְ פָּרַס, לְכָלוֹת דְּבַר-ה', מִפִּי יְרֵמְיָהּ: הֲעִיר ה', אֶת-רוּחַ כְּרֵשׁ מֶלֶךְ-פָּרַס, וַיַּעֲבֵר-קוֹל בְּכָל-מַלְכוּתוֹ...
- 1 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, at the time of the fulfillment of the prophecy of Jeremiah –God stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he proclaimed:
- ב** כֹּה אָמַר, כְּרֵשׁ מֶלֶךְ פָּרַס--כָּל מַמְלָכוֹת הָאָרֶץ, נָתַן לִי ה' אֱלֹהֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם; וְהוּא-פָקַד עָלַי לְבָנוֹת-לוֹ בַּיִת, בִּירוּשָׁלַם אֲשֶׁר בִּיהוּדָה.
- 2 'Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD, the God of heaven, given me; He has charged me to build Him a house in Jerusalem.
- ג** מִי-בְכֶם מִכָּל-עַמּוֹ, יְהִי אֱלֹהָיו עִמּוֹ, וַיַּעַל, לִירוּשָׁלַם אֲשֶׁר בִּיהוּדָה; וַיִּבֶן, אֶת-בַּיִת ה' אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל--הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים, אֲשֶׁר בִּירוּשָׁלַם.
- 3 Whosoever there is among you of all His people--his God be with him--let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD, the God of Israel, He is the God who is in Jerusalem.
- ד** וְכָל-הַנִּשְׁאָר, מִכָּל-הַמְּקוֹמוֹת אֲשֶׁר הוּא גָר-שָׁם--יִנְשְׂאוּהוּ אַנְשֵׁי מְקוֹמוֹ, בְּכֶסֶף וּבַזָּהָב וּבְרֻכּוֹשׁ...
- 4 And whosoever is left, in any place where he lives, let the men of his place help him ...

B] Ezra Chapter 4 – The 'first intifada'

- א** וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ, צָרִי יְהוּדָה וּבְנֵימִן: כִּי-בָנִי הַגּוֹלָה בּוֹנִים הַיְכָל, לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.
- 1 Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity were building a Temple
- ד** וַיְהִי, עִם-הָאָרֶץ--מְרַפִּים, יְדֵי עַם-יְהוּדָה; וּמַבְלֵהִים (וּמַבְהִלִים) אוֹתָם, לְבָנוֹת.
- 4 Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, & harried them while they were building,
- ה** וְסֹכְרִים עָלֵיהֶם יוֹעֲצִים לְהַפֵּר עֲצָתָם--כָּל יְמֵי, כְּרֵשׁ מֶלֶךְ פָּרַס, וְעַד-מַלְכוּת, דָּרְיוֹשׁ מֶלֶךְ-פָּרַס.
- 5 and hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

Ample reason for those who returned to be depressed & pessimistic

C] Haggai Chapter 1 – A new administration – a new hope!

- א** בִּשְׁנַת שְׁתַּיִם, לְדָרְיוֹשׁ הַמֶּלֶךְ, בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁשִׁי, בְּיוֹם אֶחָד לַחֹדֶשׁ--הָיָה דְבַר-ה' בְּיַד-חַגִּי הַנְּבִיא, אֶל-זֶרְבָבֶל בֶּן-שֵׁאֲלֵתִיאֵל פַּחַת יְהוּדָה, וְאֶל-יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן-יְהוֹצָדָק הַכֹּהֵן הַגָּדוֹל, לֵאמֹר.
- 1 In the second year of Darius the king, in the 6th month, in the first day, came the word of God by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest:
- ב** כֹּה אָמַר ה' צְבָאוֹת, לֵאמֹר: הָעַם הַזֶּה אָמְרוּ, לֹא עֵת-בָּא עֵת-בַּיִת ה' לְהַבְנוֹת.
- 2 'Thus says God: This people say: The time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built.' {P}
- ז** כֹּה אָמַר, ה' צְבָאוֹת: שִׁימוּ לְבַבְכֶם, עַל-דַּרְכֵיכֶם. עֲלוּ הָהָר וְהִבֵּאתֶם עֵץ, וּבְנוּ הַבַּיִת...
- 7 Thus says God: Consider your ways. Go up to the hill-country, and bring wood, and build the House...

D] Zechariah Chapter 2 [Haftara for Shabbat Chanuka - Prophetic encouragement

יד רְנִי וְשִׂמְחִי, בֵּת-צִיּוֹן--כִּי הִנְנִי-בָּא וְשִׁכְנֹתִי בְּתוֹכְךָ, נְאֻם-ה'.

14 'Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion; for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD.

E] Haggai Chapter 2 – Jerusalem CAN be Great Again!

א בְּשִׁבְעִי, בְּעֶשְׂרִים וְאֶחָד לַחֹדֶשׁ--הָיָה, דְּבַר-ה', בְּיַד-חַגִּי הַנְּבִיא, לֵאמֹר... ג' מִי בְּכֶם, הַנִּשְׁאָר, אֲשֶׁר רָאָה אֶת-הַבַּיִת הַזֶּה, בְּכְבוֹדוֹ הָרִאשׁוֹן; וְיִמָּה אַתֶּם רְאִים אֹתוֹ, עַתָּה--...

1 On the 21st day of the 7th month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying: **3** Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? and how do ye see it now?

ד וְעַתָּה חֲזַק זְרֻבָבֶל נְאֻם-ה' וְחֲזַק יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן-יְהוֹצָדָק הַכֹּהֵן הַגָּדוֹל וְחֲזַק כָּל-עַם הָאָרֶץ, נְאֻם-ה'--וְעֲשׂוּ: כִּי-אֲנִי אִתְּכֶם, נְאֻם ה' צְבָאוֹת.

4 Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work; for I am with you,

ט גָּדוֹל יִהְיֶה כְבוֹד הַבַּיִת הַזֶּה הָאֲחֵרוֹן, מִן-הָרִאשׁוֹן--אָמַר, ה' צְבָאוֹת...'

9 The glory of this latter house shall be greater than that of the former, saith the LORD of hosts; and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.'

Ground Breaking Ceremony – 24 Kislev!

י בְּעֶשְׂרִים וְאַרְבָּעָה לַתְּשִׁיעִי, בְּשֵׁנַת שְׁתַּיִם לְדְרִיּוֹשׁ--הָיָה, דְּבַר-ה', אֶל-חַגִּי הַנְּבִיא

10 In the 24th day of the ninth month, in the 2nd year of Darius, came the word to Haggai

טו וְעַתָּה שִׁימוּ-נָא לְבַבְכֶם מִן-הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה וּמִעַתָּה מִטָּרֶם שׁוֹם-אֶבֶן אֶל-אֶבֶן, בְּהִיכַל ה'.

15 And now, I pray you, consider from this day and forward--before a stone was laid upon a stone in the Temple of God

יח שִׁימוּ-נָא לְבַבְכֶם, מִן-הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה וּמִעַתָּה; מִיּוֹם עֲשָׂרִים וְאַרְבָּעָה לַתְּשִׁיעִי, לְמִן-הַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר-יִסַּד הִיכַל-ה'--שִׁימוּ לְבַבְכֶם.

18 consider, I pray you, from this day and forward, from the 24th day of the ninth month, even from the day that the foundation of the LORD'S temple was laid, consider it;

יט הַעוֹד הַזֶּרַע, בְּמַגּוּרָה, וְעַד-הַגֶּפֶן וְהַתְּאֵנָה וְהַרְמוֹן וְעֵץ הַזַּיִת, לֹא נִשְׂא--מִן-הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה, אֲבָרָךְ.

19 is the seed yet in the barn? yea, the vine, and the fig-tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive-tree hath not brought forth--from this day will I bless '

כ וַיְהִי דְבַר-ה' שְׁנִית אֶל-חַגִּי, בְּעֶשְׂרִים וְאַרְבָּעָה לַחֹדֶשׁ לֵאמֹר.

20 And the word of the LORD came the second time unto Haggai in the four and twentieth day of the month, saying:

כא אָמַר, אֶל-זְרֻבָבֶל פַּחַת-יְהוּדָה לֵאמֹר: אֲנִי מְרַעֵשׂ, אֶת-הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת-הָאָרֶץ.

21 'Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying: I will shake the heavens and the earth;

כב וְהִפַּכְתִּי, כִּסֵּא מַמְלָכוֹת, וְהִשְׁמַדְתִּי, חֹזֶק מַמְלָכוֹת הַגּוֹיִם; וְהִפַּכְתִּי מִרְכָּבָה, וּרְכָבֶיהָ, וַיִּרְדּוּ סוּסִים וּרְכָבֵיהֶם, אִישׁ בְּחָרֶב אָחִיו.

22 and I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders

Why break ground during the middle of the winter?

See Ezra 6:13-15 – construction only finished four years later in Year 6

- יד** וְשָׁבִי יְהוּדִיָּא בְּנִין וּמְצַלְחִין, בְּנִבְיֹאת חַגִּי נְבִיָּאָה וּזְכַרְיָה בֶר-עֲדוּא; וּבְנוּ וְשִׁכְּלּוּ, מִן-טַעַם אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, וּמִטַּעַם כּוֹרֶשׁ וְדַרְיָוֶשׁ, וְאַרְתַּחְשֶׁשְׁתָּא מֶלֶךְ פָּרַס. **14** And the elders of the Jews builded and prospered, through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the decree of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.
- טו** וְשִׁיְצִיא בֵּיתָה דְּנָה, עַד יוֹם תְּלַתָּה לִירַח אֲדָר-- דִּי-הִיא שְׁנַת-שֵׁת, לְמַלְכוּת דְּרִיּוֹשׁ מֶלְכָּא. {פ} **15** And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.

IV.

Great hopes in the prophecies of Chagai chapter 2

- ו** כִּי כֹה אָמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת, עוֹד אַחַת מְעַט הִיא; וְאַנִּי, מְרַעֵשׂ אֶת-הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת-הָאָרֶץ, וְאֶת-הַיָּם, וְאֶת-הַחֲרָבָה. **6** For thus saith the LORD of hosts: Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;
- ז** וְהִרְעַשְׁתִּי, אֶת-כָּל-הַגּוֹיִם, וּבָאוּ, חֲמֻדַּת כָּל-הַגּוֹיִם; וּמְלֵאתִי אֶת-הַבַּיִת הַזֶּה, כְּבוֹד-- אָמַר, יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת. **7** and I will shake all nations, and the choicest things of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.
- ח** לִי הַכֶּסֶף, וְלִי הַזָּהָב-- נְאֻם, יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת. **8** Mine is the silver, and Mine the gold, saith the LORD of hosts.
- ט** גָּדוֹל יִהְיֶה כְבוֹד הַבַּיִת הַזֶּה הָאֲחֵרוֹן, מִן-הָרִאשׁוֹן-- אָמַר, יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת; וּבַמְּקוֹם הַזֶּה אֶתֵּן שָׁלוֹם, נְאֻם יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת. {פ} **9** The glory of this latter house shall be greater than that of the former, saith the LORD of hosts; and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.' {P}
- י** בַּעֲשָׂרִים וְאַרְבָּעָה לַתְּשִׁיעִי, בְּשַׁנַּת שְׁתַּיִם לְדַרְיָוֶשׁ-- הָיָה, דְּבַר-יְהוָה, אֶל-חַגִּי הַנְּבִיָּא, לֵאמֹר. **10** In the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying:

Rashi on Chagai 2:6 רש"י

עוד אחת מעט היא - משתכלה מלכות פרס - זו המושלת עליכם
עוד אחת- תקום למשול עליכם להצר לכם מן מלכות יון
ומעט יהא זמן ממשלתה

ואני מרעיש - בניסים הנעשים לבני חשמונאי

את השמים וגו' - ויבינו ששכינתי שורה בבית זה

ויביאו תשורת זהב וכסף - כאשר כתוב בספר יוסף בן גוריון

Book of Maccabees: /Book One, Chapter one:

41 Moreover king Antiochus wrote to his whole kingdom, that all should be one people,

42 And every one should leave his laws: so all the heathen agreed according to the commandment of the king.

43 Yea, many also of the Israelites consented to his religion, and sacrificed unto idols, and profaned the sabbath.

44 For the king had sent letters by messengers unto Jerusalem and the cities of Juda that they should follow the strange laws of the land,

45 And forbid burnt offerings, and sacrifice, and drink offerings, in the temple; and that they should profane the sabbaths and festival days:

46 And pollute the sanctuary and holy people:

47 Set up altars, and groves, and chapels of idols, and sacrifice swine's flesh, and unclean beasts:

48 That they should also leave their children uncircumcised, and make their souls abominable with all manner of uncleanness and profanation:

49 To the end they might forget the law, and change all the ordinances.

50 And whosoever would not do according to the commandment of the king, he said, he should die.

51 In the selfsame manner wrote he to his whole kingdom, and appointed overseers over all the people, commanding the cities of Juda to sacrifice, city by city.

52 Then many of the people were gathered unto them, to wit every one that forsook the law; and so they committed evils in the land;

53 And drove the Israelites into secret places, even wheresoever they could flee for succour.

54 **Now the fifteenth day of the month Casleu, in the hundred forty and fifth year, they set up the abomination of desolation upon the altar,** and builded idol altars throughout the cities of Juda on every side;

55 And burnt incense at the doors of their houses, and in the streets.

56 And when they had rent in pieces the books of the law which they found, they burnt them with fire.

57 And whosoever was found with any the book of the testament, or if any committed to the law, the king's commandment was, that they should put him to death.

58 Thus did they by their authority unto the Israelites every month, to as many as were found in the cities.

59 Now the five and twentieth day of the month they did sacrifice upon the idol altar, which was upon the altar of God.

Book One, Chapter Four:

36 Then said Judas and his brethren, Behold, our enemies are discomfited: let us go up to cleanse and dedicate the sanctuary.

37 Upon this all the host assembled themselves together, and went up into mount Sion.

38 And when they saw the sanctuary desolate, and the altar profaned, and the gates burned up, and shrubs growing in the courts as in a forest, or in one of the mountains, yea, and the priests' chambers pulled down;

39 They rent their clothes, and made great lamentation, and cast ashes upon their heads,

40 And fell down flat to the ground upon their faces, and blew an alarm with the trumpets, and cried toward heaven.

41 Then Judas appointed certain men to fight against those that were in the fortress, until he had cleansed the sanctuary.

42 So he chose priests of blameless conversation, such as had pleasure in the law:

43 Who cleansed the sanctuary, and bare out the defiled stones into an unclean place.

44 And when as they consulted what to do with the altar of burnt offerings, which was profaned;

45 They thought it best to pull it down, lest it should be a reproach to them, because the heathen had defiled it: wherefore they pulled it down,

46 And laid up the stones in the mountain of the temple in a convenient place, until there should come a prophet to shew what should be done with them.

47 Then they took whole stones according to the law, and built a new altar according to the former;

48 And made up the sanctuary, and the things that were within the temple, and hallowed the courts.

49 They made also new holy vessels, and into the temple they brought the candlestick, and the altar of burnt offerings, and of incense, and the table.

50 And upon the altar they burned incense, and the lamps that were upon the candlestick they lighted, that they might give light in the temple.

51 Furthermore they set the loaves upon the table, and spread out the veils, and finished all the works which they had begun to make.

52 Now on the five and twentieth day of the ninth month, which is called the month Casleu, in the hundred forty and eighth year, they rose up betimes in the morning,

53 And offered sacrifice according to the law upon the new altar of burnt offerings, which they had made.

54 At the same time and day the heathen had profaned it, even in that was it dedicated with songs, and citherns, and harps, and cymbals.

55 Then all the people fell upon their faces, worshipping and praising the God of heaven, who had given them good success.

56 And so they kept the dedication of the altar eight days and offered burnt offerings with gladness, and sacrificed the sacrifice of deliverance and praise.

57 They decked also the forefront of the temple with crowns of gold, and with shields; and the gates and the chambers they renewed, and hanged doors upon them.

58 Thus was there very great gladness among the people, for that the reproach of the heathen was put away.

59 Moreover Judas and his brethren with the whole congregation of Israel ordained, that the days of the dedication of the altar should be kept in their season from year to year by the space of eight days, from the five and twentieth day of the month Casleu, with mirth and gladness.

The significance of the Menorah in relation to the military victory

Zechariah Chapter 4 – [Symbol of the state of Israel]

- ב** וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי, מָה אַתָּה רֹאֶה; וַיֹּאמֶר (וְאָמַר) רְאִיתִי וְהִנֵּה מְנוֹרַת זָהָב כְּלֵה וְגִלְגָּה עַל-רֹאשָׁהּ, וְשִׁבְעָה נִרְתִּיחָה עָלֶיהָ--שִׁבְעָה וְשִׁבְעָה מוֹצְקוֹת, לְנֵרוֹת אֲשֶׁר עַל-רֹאשָׁהּ.
- 2** And he said unto me: 'What seest thou?' And I said: 'I have seen, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and its seven lamps thereon; there are seven pipes, yea, seven, to the lamps, which are upon the top thereof;
- ג** וּשְׁנַיִם זַיִתִּים, עָלֶיהָ: אֶחָד מִיְמִין הַגִּלְגָּה, וְאֶחָד עַל-שְׂמאלָהּ.
- 3** and two olive-trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof.'
- ו** וַיַּעַן וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי, לֵאמֹר, זֶה דְבַר-יְהוָה, אֶל-זְרֻבָּבֶל לֵאמֹר: **לֹא בְחַיִל, וְלֹא בְכֹחַ--כִּי אִם-בְּרוּחִי, אָמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת.**
- 6** Then he answered and spoke unto me, saying: 'This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying: Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.'

Zechariah Chapter 6 – [End of unit from chapter 1 thru 6]

- טו** וַיְרַחֲקִים יָבֹאוּ, וַיְבַנּוּ בְּהִיכַל יְהוָה, וַיִּדְעַתֶּם, כִּי-יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת שְׁלַחְנִי אֵלֵיכֶם; וְהָיָה אִם-שָׁמוֹעַ תִּשְׁמַעוּן, בְּקוֹל יְהוָה.
- 15** And they that are far off shall come and build in the temple of the LORD, and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. And it shall come to pass, if ye will diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD your God--