

Do Those Who Memorialize Hanukkah Engage in Spiritual Idolatry?

This is the complete e-mail exchange between Larry Acheson and Joseph Dumond that took place in November 2012. Please note that to properly follow the course of the discussion, you have to start from the bottom e-mail and then work your way up. In other words, the first e-mail you will see below is my final response to Mr. Dumond. There were not further exchanges between us. Mr. Dumond continues to preach and teach against memorializing Hanukkah, and now (2013) teaches that the exchange between Yeshua the Messiah and the Pharisees recorded in John 10:22-42 did not in fact take place during a Hanukkah observance.

In a message dated 11/26/2012 11:13:03 P.M. Central Standard Time, Seekutruth@aol.com writes:

Shalom, Joseph,

First, I do not mean to insult your character, but at the same time, I hope you understand that when you state outright that folks like June and me are memorializing "another pagan feast day," it becomes difficult to manage a fruitful discussion. I expressed my feelings, and upon re-reading what I wrote, I must say that I stand behind my words. Also, I asked June to review my e-mail to see if I was rude or insulting. She felt that while my words weren't as soothing as you might like, at the same time, the tenor of your own response invited the answer I gave you, and she agrees with everything I wrote.

If you can prove that Hanukkah is "another pagan feast day," then you've got a case. Regrettably, all I see are the expressed sentiments of a man who has made up his mind about what he wants to believe to the point that he is willing to distort facts, as I demonstrated in my response.

Part of me was hoping that you would answer that I misunderstood you and that you were only speaking out against those who seek to observe Hanukkah as a substitute for Christmas without really appreciating the original intent of those who celebrated the Jewish victory over those who would stamp out Torah observance and kill any who dared to study and practice Torah. However, you really do have some sort of deep-seated disdain for Hanukkah and instead of addressing my concerns, you choose to portray me as one who will not "move" from my position. Would you believe me if I told you that you are mistaken in this assessment?

I can produce witnesses who will testify on my behalf that I have changed my views on various issues as a result of frank and open discourse and whether you believe it or not, I would cease memorializing Hanukkah if I could be shown that doing so is a violation of Torah. Until then, I no more regard Hanukkah observance as sinful than I do the acts of those who participated in the Lament of Tamar. No one we know of seeks to make the Hanukkah memorial a requirement for others, nor does it supersede or replace any of the festivals of Leviticus 23, so the argument that "if it's not ordained in Leviticus 23, it's sin" just doesn't work.

In the interest of pursuing scholarly inquiry with the respectful sharing of ideas, I would be willing to continue this discussion, but when the other party (i.e., June and me) is branded "sinner" for believing the way they do, they really do need something concrete to validate the charge and you did not deliver. Frankly, the onus is on you to prove that Hanukkah observance is sinful and/or "another pagan festival," so certainly the task that you are faced with is the weightier one here. Sometimes in the heat of the moment, one of the parties involved may admonish the other party for believing something, only to later learn he had a misunderstanding of the other party's view. Personally, I don't mind others asking me for clarification just to make certain we avoid the misunderstandings, so I am hopeful that if I have expressed

a misunderstanding of your views, you will correct that misunderstanding instead of regarding it as an insult to your character.

At this point, it appears that you are irrationally selective with what you choose to believe. For example, you celebrate birthdays, which do not have any Scriptural support other than the fact that heathens celebrated them, yet you regard those who memorialize Hanukkah as sinners/heathens. You also add a different twist to the observance of Trumpets, again without Scriptural support for doing so, but once again, those who memorialize Hanukkah are observing "another pagan feast day."

You unequivocally state that you are not moving from your position and I believe you. In other words, regardless of whatever facts or reasoning I present, you will not budge or, as Winston Churchill put it, "Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing has happened."

What truths about Hanukkah observance are you willing to distort for the sake of attempting to persuade others that your view is correct? I believe I identified some in my previous e-mail, including your straw man argument that Hanukkah "must be rejected" because it is not listed in Leviticus 23.

Finally, you wrote: "I do look forward to our next debate. Sounds like it will be Purim. If you look up the scriptures you will learn that Yeshua said they consisted of the first 5 books, the Psalms and the Prophets. This is what Yeshua said was the Scriptures."

I reply: So this was a debate? That might explain why what I was hoping would be a respectful discussion turned sour. Frankly, if we cannot agree on Hanukkah, I don't look for any improvement with a Purim "debate." Nevertheless, based on the brief argument that you offered in opposition to Purim observance, I am left to conclude that not only do you reject the canonicity of the book of Esther, but also Proverbs, Lamentations, Song of Solomon, Joshua, Judges, First & Second Samuel, First & Second Kings & Chronicles. I guess this would also have to include Ezra and Nehemiah. Have I overlooked others that you also reject as not being inspired?

You say that you attack the doctrine and not the sinner. I guess it's all about perspective. When you portray those who are hunted down and killed for their faith as having rebelled against YHWH and hence deserving of death, you do more than "attack the doctrine." When you portray us as observing "another heathen festival," you do more than "attack the doctrine." I could go into greater detail, but hopefully you get the gist of what I am saying. You set yourself up for the type of response that you received. Maybe you could have stated something like, "I do not believe Hanukkah observance has the support of Torah and here's why" without telling us that it is "just another pagan feast day that has been added to replace the sacred season of the 7th month." That remark invited the response that I gave you. It was not respectful and was in fact abrasive.

This will be all for now.

Shalom in YHWH,

Larry

In a message dated 11/26/2012 4:04:50 A.M. Central Standard Time, admin@sightedmoon.com writes:
Shalom Larry, and June, I responded to you and read your article as you requested of me. I did not insult your character in my reply as you have mine a couple of times.

As I said I highly respect you from our pasts.

If you wish to continue to argue this and justify your position that is fine. I will do the same. But I will not attack you personally. I will attack the doctrine but not the sinner. I expect the same in return.

We have had the opportunity to exchange our positions. I am not moving from mine and I suspect you will not move from yours. On this subject we do not and will not agree. It is what it is.

I do look forward to our next debate. Sounds like it will be Purim. If you look up the scriptures you will learn that Yehshua said they consisted of the first 5 books, the Psalms and the Prophets. This is what Yehshua said was the Scriptures.

Shalom from

Grandpa Joseph F Dumond

www.sightedmoon.com

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May Yehovah bless you and guard you -

Yeh-va-reh-cheh-cha Yehovah veh-yeesh-meh-reh-cha

May Yehovah make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you -

Ya-air Yehovah pa-naiv ay-leych-cha vee-chu-neh-cha

May Yehovah lift up his face onto you and give you peace -

Yee-sa Yehovah pa-nahv ay-leyh-cha veh-ya-same leh-cha Shalom

Yehovah is the name of the Creator. Yah is His short poetic name as in HalleluYah which is Hebrew for Praise be to Yah. Yehshua haMashiach is Hebrew for Jesus the Messiah, who was raised and was Jewish. The Hebrew word Shalom means much more than peace, hello or goodbye. In essence it means:

Completeness, wholeness, health, peace, welfare, safety soundness, tranquillity, prosperity, perfectness, fullness, rest, harmony, the absence of agitation or discord. This is the highest form of greeting somebody, and with this we greet you in His precious name.

From: Seekutruth@aol.com
Sent: Monday, November 26, 2012 1:41 AM
To: admin@sightedmoon.com
Subject: Re: The Festival of Lights; Do we have to deal with this again?

Shalom, Joseph,

Greetings in the name of YHWH and thank you for taking the time to read our study. I hope you don't mind my responding to your answers.

You wrote: "You are saying we do not celebrate the birth of Yehshua. This is not right. We celebrate His birth every year. It is at the same time as His return. The Feast of Trumpets. YOu can read my article on The Return of Yehshua and Conjunction or Sighted Which?"

I reply: While June and I are very thankful that Yeshua was born (and in that particular vein we do celebrate His birth every day), we do not set aside a day to mark that celebration. If you wish to do so, that is your prerogative, but at the same time I might use your own logic in asking where you see the justification for using the Feast of Trumpets to celebrate the Messiah's birthday. Should we deviate from celebrating this feast day in any manner other than the way prescribed by YHWH in Torah?

Indeed, it appears that you are rebuking Hanukkah observers for memorializing a certain day, even though it doesn't coincide with any holy days, to remember a special victory, while simultaneously adding your own set of guidelines to a Torah-mandated day of observance, independent of any Scriptural approval. If I misunderstand your rebuke and how it subsequently appears that you have transformed the Feast of Trumpets observance, please explain.

You wrote (in response to a paragraph from our study): "All you have to do now is replace the word Christmas with Chanukah and you would have the exact same argument I would have and do have with those who keep Chanukah."

I reply: You are mistaken in the above assessment, but if you wish to believe it anyway, then I cannot control what you believe. I can only say that it is a mistaken assessment. If you would re-read the paragraph I wrote, substituting "Hanukkah" for "Christmas," I believe the contradictions should be quite apparent. First, you have already agreed that the roots of Hanukkah observance are noble roots, or at least I gather as much when you wrote, **"I too learn about the Macabees. But I do it all through the year so as not to confuse anyone with it and Chanukah and Xmas. Nor is it to replace Sukkot. So we do agree on this."**

Secondly, I would recognize Hanukkah as a violation of Torah IF it actually served to replace another festival. While it was observed in the ninth month for 8 days because they were physically unable to observe Sukkot, it was never considered a replacement for Sukkot or any other feasts. I would also classify Hanukkah as a violation of Torah if it was regarded as a commanded observance, which it obviously is not.

You wrote: ""And Chanukah is another one that although it seems innocent and Jewish it is just another pagan feast day that has been added to replace the sacred season of the 7th month."

I reply: Again, you are mistaken. If June and I observed Hanukkah instead of Sukkot, then your remark would be valid, but since we observe Sukkot in its season and memorialize Hanukkah in the ninth month, this cannot be regarded as a "replacement."

The fact that this memorial is in remembrance of the Jewish victory over pagans proves that it is not "another pagan feast day." I had previously realized that you have little regard for Hanukkah, but I had no idea it was so indelibly etched in your mind that you would stoop to this inflammatory level of verbiage, especially when no one is suggesting that you should even memorialize it.

You then wrote: "You next go on to tell the story of the Macabees. This is fine and all good. I have no problem with this."

I reply: So telling the story of Maccabees is "fine and good," but by taking an hour out of my evening to read that story while pausing to reflect on the bitter struggles that those who refused to abandon Torah were subjected to I am paying homage to a "pagan feast day"? Really?

I had written:

Jewish national assemblies had the authority to proclaim a day of gladness, but never the power to raise such a day to a sacred status. Proof that they never intended Hanukkah as a commanded observance can be found in the fact that Judaism has never regarded Hanukkah as a commanded festival. Rather, it is a "minor festival" that many choose to keep as a remembrance of the miracle that happened in Jerusalem, combined with a celebration of the victory of good over evil.

To which you replied: "Again this is good. BUT.. many Ephraimites come out of pagan christmas and now use Chanukah as a replacement for it. MAny Jews use Chanukah to pretend to be normal with the pagan festivals going on. I reject this. The Book of MACabees is not an ordained book of the bible. Yet some will use it as such."

I reply: So if Ephraimites come out of pagan Christmas and replace it with, say, Passover, would you offer the same rebuke? Many years ago, June and I observed Christmas, but as we came to understand its roots and lack of Scriptural support, we abandoned that observance. A few years later, and not during the Hanukkah season, we learned about Hanukkah observance, including its roots and its meaning. We did not take up memorializing Hanukkah as a replacement for Christmas; rather, it was the result of the same drive to rid ourselves of heathen rites and ceremonies that led us to reject the one and accept the other. If Hanukkah observance was less than noble, we would not have considered memorializing it.

I find it intriguing that you reject Maccabees because it is not "an ordained book of the Bible." Perhaps you are not aware of the fact that Maccabees is included in the Septuagint version of the Bible, which is the version that was most widely used by first-century believers and from which NT writers most frequently quoted. You may also be aware of the fact that it was Luther who made the decision to remove Maccabees from "ordained Scripture." Judaism rejected the Septuagint version when first-century believers began using it to prove that Yeshua is the Messiah.

What is even more intriguing is the fact that you also reject the memorialization of a day that is recognized by a book of "ordained Scripture," namely, the book of Esther. Thus, it obviously wouldn't matter whether or not you felt that Maccabees belongs in "ordained Scripture," you would still apparently be opposed to memorializing Hanukkah all because it isn't listed in Leviticus 23.

You wrote: "I do as well but for proof of the Sabbatical years which they tell us in plain english. But too many are keeping Chanukah to read these other verses that tell us that."

I reply: So it's okay to use Maccabees for determining correct & Scriptural Sabbatical years, but those same folks who reckoned Sabbatical years initiated "another pagan feast day," even though it was the celebration of their victory over pagans who suppressed and outlawed Torah observance?

You wrote: "Larry you then go to admit the 8 day oil thing is a false teaching only found in the Talmud. Yet you dismiss this out and out lie in order to justify the keeping of this celebration that is modelled after the 8 days of Saturnalia. ANd Diwali all of which are modelled after the worship of Nimrod and the yule log and all that is bad about Christmas. Only now we dress it in Jewish words so it sound OK. By keeping chanukah you are teaching others to accept the lie about the 8 days. And you see nothing wrong with that? PLease think on this. You did ask me to tell you and I am being straight. Not trying to slam or hurt you. Just straight up. Not holding any punches. Please forgive me Larry for using your words on you. I just cannot resist."

I reply: First, please tell me how it is you are using my words on me. I don't follow what you mean or how you did such a thing. Is it something that you should have resisted?

Secondly, I dismiss the 8-day "oil thing" in the same vein that I dismiss having a boiled egg on my plate at Passover. It's a [later] tradition that has no foundation in Scripture or truth. If some Jews made up some fable that adds to the Hanukkah story, would you use the fable to disprove and reject the memorial? Yes, you would because that's what you do. This is the same reasoning that I have heard to "disprove" the use of "Elohim" in reference to the Almighty (since it was also applied to heathen idols), as well as crescent new moon observance (since heathens worshipped the crescent moon and even carved images of it).

Your commentary (without offering me any scholarly support) about Hanukkah being modeled after Saturnalia is more than insulting and I find it unbecoming of a man seeking reasonable discourse. It is becoming of a man who regards himself as an apostle sent by the Almighty and therefore qualified to authoritatively assert himself (and I've run into more than a few such individuals along my wilderness journey). Now IF you have historical evidence that Hanukkah is modeled after Saturnalia, then I believe you should offer it instead of just expecting me to believe such a radical testimony from yourself.

As you yourself know from what I wrote in our study, if all there was to Hanukkah observance was "the eight-day oil thing," then we would have nothing to do with it, and for you to assert that June and I are "teaching others to accept the lie about the 8 days" is unfair and a lie in and of itself. Again, unbecoming of someone whom I thought appreciated the value of frank, open and respectful discourse. If this is what I can expect in future communications with you, then it would be best for us to go our own separate directions.

About your comments that you are not trying to slam or hurt me, but that you are rather being "straight up": This issue isn't really about hurt feelings, and in fact, my feelings are not hurt. However, I am disappointed that you misrepresent Hanukkah on different levels, all the while thinking you are all "studied up" on this memorial observance. I am disappointed that, in spite of my establishing that the 8 days of Hanukkah stem from the 8 days of Sukkot/Last Great Day, which the Jews had missed out on prior to their victory over Antiochus Epiphanes, you misrepresent me as teaching its observance is in remembrance of a false 8-day miraculous oil fable. I am also disappointed that you present Hanukkah as being modeled after Saturnalia without offering so much as a hint of evidence to support such a claim.

I might add your puzzling addition of another pagan holiday that is not only omitted from Scripture, but one that I had never even heard of during my 26+ years of Torah observance: Diwali. Are you now going to accuse me of patterning our Hanukkah observance after a heathen festival that I had never even heard of until you mentioned it?

You wrote: "If these people were willing to die in order not to eat pork, then why are we not willing to obey and NOT ADD TO TORAH, the same Torah that they were willing to die for. (I was not Yelling just emphasizing) We are so easy to just let things go. Yet they had a zeal to want to keep Torah. But...again if they were keeping Torah then where was Yehovah? A question I often think of. Why did He not protect them. How corrupt had they become?"

I reply: I find it calloused to even wonder why YHWH didn't protect His people. This is the same thing folks thought about the Messiah and the many true believers who were killed in spite of their faith in YHWH. Would you have asked the Messiah who had sinned -- the blind man or his parents -- to cause him to be born blind? This is a question that comes to my mind when I read of the question that you often think of.

You add: "If they were willing to die not to eat pork then we should honour that just as they also during this time would not go to war in a Sabbatical year. They stretched out their necks and said kill us, we will not fight. And thousands were slaughtered. MACabees and Josephus state this. It was because to these slaughters that they changed the ORAL law and said they could defend themselves but not be the aggressors."

I reply: So, these Jews came up with an "oral law" that forbade anyone from either attacking or defending oneself on Shabbat, but when they discovered that this tactic was resulting in enormous casualties, they decided to at least defend themselves, and this method of self-preservation reflects the change of an "oral law"? I guess that's one way of looking at it, but I guess you need to then minimize or dismiss the Almighty's role in later giving them the victory over Antiochus Epiphanes' army?

You wrote: "Purim is another one that I tell the brethren not to keep. Once again it is a test. Will you obey Yehovah and add to the Torah, some do. The lament of Tamar, is a new one to me and not one I have to deal with as the brethren are doing this at this time. By adding these other things you are in fact mixing seed. WHICH we both know is condemned by Yehovah. Chanukah and Purim are bringing in festival that are not found in Lev 23 and are created by men. It is the mixing of two different things. One is Holy Lev 23 and the other two are not found in Torah."

I reply: Interesting choice of words with "Purim is another one that I tell the brethren not to keep." Very authoritative of you, but I will go with Scripture just the same and Purim is sanctioned by the book of Esther, which is found in Scripture. One thing I frequently tell others, including an acquaintance with whom I visited today: Please do not believe Scripture as it is interpreted by me, and only believe me as I am supported by Scripture." Something tells me you reject the canonicity of the book of Esther, but if you don't then you will have some explaining to do if you want me to believe that this book denounces the observance of Purim. Yes, Purim is indeed a test -- a test of whether I will recognize Scripture over the teachings of men.

About your "mixing of seed" comment: In other words, you regard the observance of Purim and Hanukkah to be sin, since you know mixing seed it condemned by YHWH. Interesting that you feel qualified to offer this analogy.

You seem to dismiss out-of-hand the lament of Tamar, but I am fairly certain that if folks began a four-day-a year lamentation for Tamar, you would be equally patronizing with them as you are with those who observe Hanukkah, even though that particular observance most certainly has the support of Torah and provides an approved Scriptural example of a memorial that is non-binding and not mandated or spoken of in Leviticus 23. I stand by the following commentary from our study:

Yahweh never commanded anyone to start the custom of lamenting for Tamar, yet neither is there a record of negative implications resulting from that decision. Thus, no one can truthfully say that the daughters of Israel made a poor decision in remembering the sacrifice of Tamar. It was a remembrance based upon love and the respect for life. In fact, had they chosen to *not* remember Tamar as they did, one could say that such a decision would have reflected a calloused mentality, an indifference towards the suffering of others.

Thus, the ordaining of special observances, if it does not in any way conflict with Yahweh's Word, is not necessarily a bad thing to do, especially if it is chosen in such a way so as to bring honor to Yahweh and to the memory of those who courageously took a stand for His laws.

You wrote: "I find it amazing how you can correctly state how Jeroboams Feast in the 8th month is wrong yet not see why this one in the 9th month is not wrong as well. Jeroboams was done for the people so they would not have to travel so far to Jerusalem and it too was done to God. (I am playing the devils advocate here) Again do you not see the similarity here?"

I reply: Jeroboam's feast was designed to replace Sukkot. Do you not see the difference here?

You wrote: "Your next position is one I have already addressed to you in the previous email. ABOUT John 10. The dedication being that of Solomons which was done at Sukkot which was also winter. I could make a very strong case for this point of view. And may in the future do so.

To use the argument that Yeshua did not condemn Chanukah does not legitimize it. Come on. He never said anything about driving cars on the left hand side either although there were chariots there. So this means that we should drive on the right side. This is a lame argument. One that does not hold up in a court of law. And remember we are to judge angels. So if your going to claim chanukah then you have to have sound facts and not hersey or lame arguments. You are not convincing me here at all. Just giving me more ammunition. Sorry."

I reply: So since Yeshua did not officially legitimize Hanukkah in John 10, does this mean He condemned it? Come on, He was "at the scene of the crime" on the very day of Hanukkah. If He would have had anything negative to say about that day, I assure you He would have done so. I can also assure you that Joseph Dumond would have done so.

Your irrelevant remark about Yeshua's not commenting about which side of the road chariots should be driven on is more than pointless, not only because that would have been a civil issue instead of a Torah issue, but also because of the fact that John specifies that the day on which He made his comments was the day of Hanukkah ("Dedication"), which plainly afforded Him a perfect opportunity to offer the same scathing rebukes that you so freely give the brethren for observing Hanukkah -- yet IF He said any such thing, John for some reason left it out of his account. I find it highly unlikely that John would have left out such a harsh rebuke while including all the other rebukes.

You continue: "No not all traditions are bad, You are right. If Chanukah was not such a big deal and always so close to Xmas and look like another form of Xmas the same as Diwali the Hindu Christmas and

the same as the Jewish Christmas is with its Chanukiah bush then I would not object to it. But because it does look like Christmas and sound like Christmas I must protest it until Messiah comes. We Ephraimites have worshipped everything under the sun to glory of God we said when in truth it was not at all and drove us away from Yehovah. Those Jews who kept this observance were driven out of the land in 70 AD and only got back just a few years ago in 1948. They were hunted and persecuted for all of this time. Do you think it might be because they have mixed the truth with the untruth and Yehovah was chastising them to repent? The same as He is now with us with the severe weather and terrorism and soon war. It is because we will not obey Him. We need to have that Zeal that the Macabees had and not add to Torah even it pains us to death!!! You are making an assumption based on a false premise that this is OK. It is not."

I reply: If I were to follow your reasoning of abandoning Hanukkah observance because of its close proximity to Christmas (on the calendar), I would have to likewise abandon Passover/Unleavened Bread observance because of their close proximity to Easter. The only reason it "looks like Christmas" is because some folks choose to dress it up like Christmas. According to Josephus, Hanukkah is the original "Festival of Lights," so Christmas observers seem to have borrowed their extensive use of lights from ancient Hanukkah observances. Modern-day Hanukkah observers who put up a "Hanukkah bush" are obviously imitating the Christmas tree. I say, let's keep the original "Festival of Lights" connected to the memorial from which it originated and toss out the imitation Hanukkah bushes.

From your self-righteous perch, you judge those Jews who were hunted and killed as deserving of their fate. If only you could understand that none of us deserves Yahweh's mercy and protection and many who deserved it waaaaay more than we do were nevertheless tortured and killed. If only we could stop pointing fingers at others and rationalizing why they were killed, while taking comfort in the false sense of security that we are somehow better than they were.

You wrote: "Yehovah told Moses to build a stake with a snake on it to heal the people when ever they looked on it. OUR modern symbol for the Doctors. Hezekiah comes along and see the people worship this same image that Yehovah told Moses to make and Hezekiah destroys it so that the people do not fall in idol worship. The people are perverting the original memory of this time of MACabees. We, which is what I am doing, need to destroy this festival as it is polluted with Christmas worship as your quote admits and so do you. Just plain stop doing it. Until we get right with YEHovah. Until Xmas is not even a memory. And then we can have a Macabee remembrance day on Say July 7th. Just because it ties into no other days."

I reply: Once again, you are using perverted logic. By your logic, we should discontinue looking for new moons because pagans worshipped the new moon and even carved images of the crescent moon. By your logic, we should forget YHWH's covenant of the rainbow because of the gay community's use of the rainbow as their symbol. Your vigilante style of stamping out anything that you decree is stained with paganism may sound noble on the surface, and your example of Hezekiah and Nehushtan almost seems to fit, but in the final analysis they are not the same. The one is an image that people were to look upon for healing -- later converted to an object of worship. The other is an observance with a noble origin that man (as usual) has found a way to corrupt. The solution is no more to dissolve the memorial observance any more than it is to dissolve the name YAH because it became known as the name of a moon deity.

I may have left out comments on other portions of your response. If so, I apologize. Let me know what I have left unanswered and I will do my best to get back with you.

Shalom in YHWH,

Larry

In a message dated 11/25/2012 7:56:27 P.M. Central Standard Time, admin@sightedmoon.com writes: Shalom once again Larry, I am going to comment here as I read your article. The first thing I do with articles like this is replace Christmas with Chanukah and see just how many times they fit. It is just one of the things I do. Not meant to insult you. Please do not forget I do still hold you both in high regard since we first met way back in 2008.

You are saying we do not celebrate the birth of Yehshua. This is not right. We celebrate His birth every year. It is at the same time as His return. The Feast of Trumpets. YOu can read my article on The Return of Yehshua and Conjunction or Sighted Which?

You said

"those of us who understand the true roots of its observance, combined with the Scriptural admonition to not mix our faith with the practices of heathens,⁴ recognize the observance of Christmas as a violation of Torah. Add to this the fact that Christmas observance, along with other commonly accepted holidays, is treated as a replacement of the observance of our Creator's ordained holy days, and we can understand that it is a partial fulfillment of the prophecy of Daniel 7:25. In this chapter we read of a symbolic "little horn" that comes out of the fourth beast mentioned in the prophetic account. Notice one of the characteristics of this "little horn":

²⁵ He shall speak words against the Most High, shall wear out the holy ones of the Most High, and shall attempt to change the sacred seasons and the law. "

All you have to do now is replace the word Christmas with Chanukah and you would have the exact same argument I would have and do have with those who keep Chanukah.

Again you say "

It has persuaded most of the civilized world that our Creator's laws have been either "changed" or "done away," and the "sacred seasons" or holy feast days ordained by our Creator have been replaced with such counterparts as Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas, all of which on the surface seem so innocent and pure, but under the close scrutiny of Scripture, are abominations.⁵

And Chanukah is another one that although it seems innocent and Jewish it is just another pagan feast day that has been added to replace the the sacred season of the 7th month.

You next go on to tell the story of the Macabees. This is fine and all good. I have no problem with this. YOu even go on to say

Jewish national assemblies had the authority to proclaim a day of gladness, but never the power to raise such a day to a sacred status. Proof that they never intended Hanukkah as a commanded observance can be found in the fact that Judaism has never regarded Hanukkah as a commanded festival. Rather, it is a "minor festival" that many choose to keep as a remembrance of the miracle that happened in Jerusalem, combined with a celebration of the victory of good over evil.

Again this is good. BUT.. many Ephramites come out of pagan christmas and now use Chanukah as a replacement for it. MAny Jews use Chanukah to pretend to be normal with the pagan festivals going on. I reject this. The Book of Macabees is not an ordained book of the bible. Yet some will use it as such.

I do as well but for proof of the Sabbatical years which they tell us in plain english. But too many are keeping Chanukah to read these other verses that tell us that.

Larry you then go to admit the 8 day oil thing is a false teaching only found in the Talmud. Yet you dismiss this out and out lie in order to justify the keeping of this celebration that is modelled after the 8 days of Saturnalia. ANd Diwali all of which are modelled after the worship of Nimrod and the yule log and all that is bad about Christmas. Only now we dress it in Jewish words so it sound OK. By keeping chanukah you are teaching others to accept the lie about the 8 days. And you see nothing wrong with that? PLease think on this. You did ask me to tell you and I am being straight. Not trying to slam or hurt you. Just straight up. Not holding any punches.

Please forgive me Larry for using your words on you. I just cannot resist.

YOu said "

Read the account of the mother and her seven sons (2 Maccabees chapter 7). She watched as Antiochus Epiphanes attempted to persuade each one to taste swine's flesh. For those in today's society who regard Yahweh's laws as having been "done away," this would seem like such a minor, trivial request. Punishment for refusing to eat the pork was torture, followed by death in an immense frying pan. Surely, one might reason, they should have consented to eat the pork. Those who recognize the holiness and the permanence of Yahweh's laws, however, understand that dishonoring our Heavenly Father in such a way is simply not an option. Such was the understanding of the mother and her seven sons. One by one, each refused, and one by one they were all tortured, maimed and fried alive. "

If these people were willing to die in order not to eat pork, then why are we not willing to obey and NOT ADD TO TORAH, the same Torah that they were willing to die for. (I was not Yelling just emphasizing) We are so easy to just let things go. Yet they had a zeal to want to keep Torah. But...again if they were keeping Torah then where was Yehovah? A question I often think of. Why did He not protect them. How corrupt had they become?

If they were wiling to die not to eat pork then we should honour that just as they also during this time would not go to war in a Sabbatical year. They stretched out their necks and said kill us, we will not fight. And thousands were slaughtered. MAcabees and Josephus state this. It was because to these slaughters that they changed the ORAL law and said they could defend themselves but not be the aggressors.

Yet they forget that Joshua fought in the Jubilee years when he crossed the Jordan. Another subject but again showing the misplaced zeal. Yes Misplaced.

You go on in your justification section to say.

For those who claim that it constitutes "adding to the Word," we can only remind them of the previously cited examples of Purim and the custom of lamenting for Tamar. If ordaining the observance of Hanukkah constitutes "adding to the Word," then so do the observances of

Purim and lamenting for Tamar. Since we recognize that both of these observances have the blessing of Yahweh, we believe Hanukkah does as well.

Purim is another one that I tell the brethren not to keep. Once again it is a test. Will you obey Yehovah and add to the Torah, some do. The lament of Tamar, is a new one to me and not one I have to deal with as the brethren are doing this at this time. By adding these other things you are in fact mixing seed. Which we both know is condemned by Yehovah. Chanukah and Purim are bringing in festival that are not found in Lev 23 and are created by men. It is the mixing of two different things. One is Holy Lev 23 and the other two are not found in Torah.

I find it amazing how you can correctly state how Jeroboam's Feast in the 8th month is wrong yet not see why this one in the 9th month is not wrong as well. Jeroboam's was done for the people so they would not have to travel so far to Jerusalem and it too was done to God. (I am playing the devil's advocate here) Again do you not see the similarity here?

Your next position is one I have already addressed to you in the previous email. About John 10. The dedication being that of Solomon's which was done at Sukkot which was also winter. I could make a very strong case for this point of view. And may in the future do so.

To use the argument that Yeshua did not condemn Chanukah does not legitimize it. Come on. He never said anything about driving cars on the left hand side either although there were chariots there. So this means that we should drive on the right side. This is a lame argument. One that does not hold up in a court of law. And remember we are to judge angels. So if you're going to claim Chanukah then you have to have sound facts and not heresy or lame arguments. You are not convincing me here at all. Just giving me more ammunition. Sorry.

You then go on to say next which you also agreed with.

"Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of Eloah, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups, and many other such like things ye do."¹⁸

No not all traditions are bad, You are right. If Chanukah was not such a big deal and always so close to Xmas and look like another form of Xmas the same as Diwali the Hindu Christmas and the same as the Jewish Christmas is with its Chanukiah bush then I would not object to it. But because it does look like Christmas and sound like Christmas I must protest it until Messiah comes. We Ephraimites have worshiped everything under the sun to glory of God we said when in truth it was not at all and drove us away from Yehovah. Those Jews who kept this observance were driven out of the land in 70 AD and only got back just a few years ago in 1948. They were hunted and persecuted for all of this time. Do you think it might be because they have mixed the truth with the untruth and Yehovah was chastising them to repent? The same as He is now with us with the severe weather and terrorism and soon war. It is because we will not obey Him. We need to have that Zeal that the Macabees had and not add to Torah even it pains us to death!!!

You are making an assumption based on a false premise that this is OK. It is not.

The author brought up some legitimate dangers in Hanukkah observance that we believe should be addressed. Notice his warning:

"In sincerity many brethren keep the Feast of Dedication. The Feast of Dedication cannot replace and should not compete with Sukkot. Chanukah is not a commanded feast and lacks the foundation of Yahweh's unchanging pattern by which we are to live. Yah'shua's example in John doesn't specify either a recommendation or command to keep Chanukah. The result is that Chanukah is a personal preference that has to be tempered with knowledge and love. The downside of Chanukah is that some use it as a substitute for Christmas."

We share the author's concern that Hanukkah observance cannot replace and should not compete with Sukkot (the Feast of Tabernacles). We have already pointed out that Hanukkah was never intended to replace any of Yahweh's ordained feasts. We also mentioned that it was only when people used a tradition to replace or otherwise subvert Yahweh's Word that Yeshua had a problem, and He never expressed any objections to the observance of Hanukkah.

Furthermore, as the author established, Hanukkah is not a commanded feast. We addressed this particular concern in chapter 4, section one, so for now we will simply state that Hanukkah is not a festival that we should dogmatically insist that others observe. Rather, we believe that its observance should be a matter of what is laid upon our hearts to do.

The author pointed out that a down side to Hanukkah lies in its being used as a substitute for Christmas. We are also opposed to such a manner of observance. Hanukkah was instituted by people who were opposed to compromising our beliefs by incorporating heathen customs into our faith. It therefore makes no sense to undermine the true significance of Hanukkah by incorporating Christmas customs into our Hanukkah observance.

I whole heartedly agree with this. I too learn about the Macabees. But I do it all through the year so as not to confuse anyone with it and Chanukah and Xmas. Nor is it to replace Sukkot. So we do agree on this.

"Chanukkah is probably one of the best known Jewish holidays, not because of any great religious significance, but because of its proximity to Christmas. Many non-Jews (and even many assimilated Jews!) think of this holiday as the Jewish Christmas, adopting many of the Christmas customs, such as elaborate gift-giving and decoration. It is bitterly ironic that this holiday, which has its roots in a revolution against assimilation and the suppression of Jewish religion, has become the most assimilated, secular holiday on our calendar."

Great quote. Yehovah told Moses to build a stake with a snake on it to heal the people when ever they looked on it. OUR modern symbol for the Doctors.

Hezekiah comes along and see the people worship this same image that Yehovah told Moses to make and Hezekiah destroys it so that the people do not fall in idol worship. The people are perverting the original memory of this time of MACabees. We, which is what I am doing, need to destroy this festival as it is polluted with Christmas worship as your quote admits and so do you. Jus plain stop doing it. Until we get right with YEhovah. Until Xmas is not even a memory. And then we can have a Macabee remembrance day on Say July 7th. Just because it ties into no other days.

I myself will most likely read MACabees in my studies. But I will not light a Menorah nor a Chankiah. Nor play the credal or eat lakte. No I will remember the time and the events but I will not celebrate it all lest I assist another person to justify the keeping of it to replace Xmas. We have 7 Feast commanded to us to keep. When we have perfected that then we shall do it again and add none to it.

Thank you for writing. I hope you see my position. AS I do yours. We have far too many replacing xmas as even you stated in the beginning you were looking for something to replace it with. I do hope although we do not agree on this we will continue to be in touch. I do not hate you for doing this. We do not agree that all.

Shalom from
Grandpa Joseph F Dumond
www.sightedmoon.com
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May Yehovah bless you and guard you -
Yeh-va-reh-cheh-cha Yehovah veh-yeesh-meh-reh-cha
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Yehovah is the name of the Creator. Yah is His short poetic name as in HalleluYah which is Hebrew for Praise be to Yah. Yehshua haMashiach is Hebrew for Jesus the Messiah, who was raised and was Jewish. The Hebrew word Shalom means much more than peace, hello or goodbye. In essence it means:
Completeness, wholeness, health, peace,welfare, safety soundness, tranquillity, prosperity, perfectness, fullness, rest, harmony, the absence of agitation or discord. This is the highest form of greeting somebody, and with this we greet you in His precious name.

From: Seekutruth@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, November 25, 2012 3:51 PM
To: admin@sightedmoon.com
Subject: Re: The Festival of Lights; Do we have to deal with this again?

Shalom, Joseph,

Greetings in the name of YHWH. I have understood for some time that you do not support the observance of Hanukkah, and I feel each of us should feel free to make our own decisions about whether or not to recognize the legitimacy of this observance without being criticized or rebuked from those of the other persuasion. I have not previously chosen to offer you my perspective because I do not really wish to engage anyone in a disagreement over an observance that I feel is voluntary anyway. Years ago, a dear acquaintance rebuked us for having sent her a Hanukkah card and in her written response she challenged us on several points, while outlining why she felt that true believers should have nothing to do with Hanukkah observance.

My answer to her challenges was in the form of a study that is available for review on our web site at the following link:

<http://ponderscripture.org/PDF%20Files/Hanukkah.pdf>

We understand that many have already formed their opinions about the legitimacy of Hanukkah observance (which we consider to be more of a memorial than a "festival," as it is so often called). For June and me, it is simply a time that we set aside (usually of an evening) to pause and reflect upon the past struggles of those who preferred death over forsaking Torah observance, while simultaneously giving the Almighty thanks for the freedoms that we now have. Some who share our understanding join us for reading and discussion, but, of course, it is strictly voluntary.

Our study addresses every anti-Hanukkah arguments that we have run across, but if you have any that we have omitted, we invite you to bring them to our attention because we only want to do that which is pleasing to YHWH. I only write this to you because you asked the question, "If is not [written in Leviticus 23] then why on earth are you doing it." You proceeded to compare Hanukkah observance to spiritual idolatry. Of course, if we are not observing the directives found in Leviticus 23 while observing Hanukkah, then there is an obvious problem. Is there still a problem if one observes the commands found in Leviticus 23 while also memorializing Hanukkah? I believe our study effectively answers this question.

With all the world problems facing us today, I am persuaded that we are better served seeking areas of unity and focusing on them instead of pointing accusatory fingers at folks who truly seek to honor the Almighty and His Son. At the same time, if setting aside an hour of time each evening for eight days to reflect on the bitter struggles of those who came before us, while giving YHWH thanks that we can at least observe and practice Torah without fear of government retribution, -- if this should be regarded as spiritual idolatry, then I want to know how and why so I can immediately make the decision to stop.

Shalom to you and your family,

Larry Acheson

In a message dated 11/23/2012 3:35:53 P.M. Central Standard Time, admin@sightedmoon.com writes:
News Letter 5848-039??

9th day of the 9th month?5848 years after the creation of Adam????

The 9th Month in the Third year of the third Sabbatical Cycle????

The Third Sabbatical Cycle of the 119th Jubilee Cycle?????

The Sabbatical Cycle of Earthquakes Famines, and Pestilences?????

This is also the end of the Thirty-Fifth week of this the Third Tithe Year for the Levite, the alien, the fatherless and the widow?Deuteronomy 26:12??

We are now just 4 years & 3 months from the Sabbatical year in 2016???

November 24, 2012

Shabbat Shalom Brethren,

Last week I inadvertently titled the intro to the 7th commandment with the same title from three days before. I apologize for this mistake on my part. It was not the same article being sent out a second time.

We were to have our second part this week on the 7th Commandment, but.. it is once again that time of the year when the world celebrates the Festival of Lights. And as much as I hate rebuking those who feel the need to keep this festival which is not found in the Torah, I once again must warn those who are knew to this walk, not to follow the crowd and to stick to the Torah. If it is written in Leviticus 23 then do it. If is not then why on earth are you doing it. Why are you committing spiritual idolatry which we talked about last week. Each of you must decide what you are going to do. We will continue to provide you with the truth even if many do not like it.

On this past Thursday we were buying our meat at a Kosher Jewish store in Toronto. All over the Store were Happy Hanukkah signs. My wife was with me. And as we were going about the store, they were playing Christmas Carols. My wife turns to me and says what is that? All I could do was roll my eyes and shrug my shoulders. I let her know we are not going to keep Hanukkah now. My wife continues to keep Christmas against my will. It is all the Festival of lights and not found in Leviticus 23.

We ask you to keep us in your prayers as www.sightedmoon.com is in the process of changing and reorganizing. We pray we are doing Yehovah's will in all of this to bring glory to HIs name. Stay tuned.

To read the rest of this weeks News Letter go to http://www.sightedmoonnl.com/?page_id=817

To see past News Letters you can go to one of the following for each of the years they were posted.

2012 NEWS LETTERS FOR THE YEAR 5848

http://www.sightedmoonnl.com/?page_id=778

2011 NEWS LETTERS FOR THE YEAR 5847

[HTTP://WWW.SIGHTEDMOONNL.COM/?PAGE_ID=719](http://www.sightedmoonnl.com/?page_id=719)

2010 NEWS LETTERS FOR THE YEAR 5846

[HTTP://WWW.SIGHTEDMOONNL.COM/?PAGE_ID=619](http://www.sightedmoonnl.com/?page_id=619)

2009 NEWS LETTERS FOR THE YEAR 5845

[HTTP://WWW.SIGHTEDMOONNL.COM/?PAGE_ID=483](http://www.sightedmoonnl.com/?page_id=483)

2008 NEWS LETTERS FOR THE YEAR 5844

[HTTP://WWW.SIGHTEDMOON.COM/?PAGE_ID=219](http://www.sightedmoon.com/?page_id=219)

2007 NEWS LETTERS FOR THE YEAR 5843

[HTTP://WWW.SIGHTEDMOON.COM/?PAGE_ID=144](http://www.sightedmoon.com/?page_id=144)

Thank you all for your enacouragement and support.

Shalom from

Grandpa Joseph F Dumond

www.sightedmoon.com

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This message was sent to seekutruth@aol.com from:
Sightedmoon Ministry | 14 Willow Cres. | Orangeville , Ontario L9V1A5, Canada

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For the benefit of those who want to see the actual screen shots of the above e-mail exchange, I am providing them below:



In the interest of pursuing scholarly inquiry with the respectful sharing of ideas, I would be willing to continue this discussion, but when the other party (i.e., June and me) is branded "sinner" for believing the way they do, they really do need something concrete to validate the charge and you did not deliver. Frankly, the onus is on you to prove that Hanukkah observance is sinful and/or "another pagan festival," so certainly the task that you are faced with is the weightier one here. Sometimes in the heat of the moment, one of the parties involved may admonish the other party for believing something, only to later learn he had a misunderstanding of the other party's view. Personally, I don't mind others asking me for clarification just to make certain we avoid the misunderstandings, so I am hopeful that if I have expressed a misunderstanding of your views, you will correct that misunderstanding instead of regarding it as an insult to your character.

At this point, it appears that you are irrationally selective with what you choose to believe. For example, you celebrate birthdays, which do not have any Scriptural support other than the fact that heathens celebrated them, yet you regard those who memorialize Hanukkah as sinners/heathens. You also add a different twist to the observance of Trumpets, again without Scriptural support for doing so, but once again, those who memorialize Hanukkah are observing "another pagan feast day."

You unequivocally state that you are not moving from your position and I believe you. In other words, regardless of whatever facts or reasoning I present, you will not budge or, as Winston Churchill put it, "Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing has happened."

What truths about Hanukkah observance are you willing to distort for the sake of attempting to persuade others that your view is correct? I believe I identified some in my previous e-mail, including your straw man argument that Hanukkah "must be rejected" because it is not listed in Leviticus 23.

Finally, you wrote: "I do look forward to our next debate. Sounds like it will be Purim. If you look up the scriptures you will learn that Yehshua said they consisted of the first 5 books, the Psalms and the Prophets. This is what Yehshua said was the Scriptures."



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Irply: So this was a debate? That might explain why what I was hoping would be a respectful discussion turned sour. Frankly, if we cannot agree on Hanukkah, I don't look for any improvement with a Purim "debate." Nevertheless, based on the brief argument that you offered in opposition to Purim observance, I am left to conclude that not only do you reject the canonicity of the book of Esther, but also Proverbs, Lamentations, Song of Solomon, Joshua, Judges, First & Second Samuel, First & Second Kings & Chronicles. I guess this would also have to include Ezra and Nehemiah. Have overlooked others that you also reject as not being inspired?

You say that you attack the doctrine and not the sinner. I guess it's all about perspective. When you portray those who are hunted down and killed for their faith as having rebelled against YHWE and hence deserving of death, you do more than "attack the doctrine." When you portray us as observing "another heathen festival," you do more than "attack the doctrine." I could go into greater detail, but hopefully you get the gist of what I am saying. You set yourself up for the type of response that you received. Maybe you could have stated something like, "I do not believe Hanukkah observance has the support of Torah and here's why" without telling us that it is "just another pagan feast day that has been added to replace the sacred season of the 7th month." That remark invited the response that I gave you. It was not respectful and was in fact abrasive.

This will be all for now

Shalom in YHWH,

Larry

In a message dated 11/26/2012 4:04:50 A.M. Central Standard Time, admur@sightedmoon.com writes:

Shalom Larry, and June. I responded to you and read your article as you requested of me. I did not insult your character in my reply as you have mine a couple of times.

As said I highly respect you from our pasts.

If you wish to continue to argue this and justify your position that is fine. I will do the same. But I will not attack you personally. I will attack the doctrine but not the sinner. I expect the same in return.

We have had the opportunity to exchange our positions. I am not moving from mine and I suspect you will not move from yours. On this subject we do not and will not agree. It is what it is.

I do look forward to our next debate. Surely like it will be Purim. If you look up the scriptures you will learn that Yeshua said they consisted of the first 5 books, the Psalms and the Prophets. This is what Yeshua said was the Scriptures.

Shalom from

Grandpa Joseph F Diamond

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Yee-za Yehovah pa-nahv ay-leyh-cha zeh-ya-same leh-cha Shalom



From: Seekuruth@aol.com
Sent: Monday, November 26, 2012 1:11 AM
To: admin@sightedmoon.com
Subject: Re: The Festival of Lights; Do we have to deal with this again?

Shalom, Joseph,

Greetings in the name of YHWH and thank you for taking the time to read our study. I hope you don't mind my responding to your answers.

You wrote: "You are saying we do not celebrate the birth of Yeshua. This is not right. We celebrate His birth every year. It is at the same time as His return. The Feast of Trumpets. You can read my article on The Return of Yeshua and Conjunction or Sighted Which?"

I reply. While Jane and I are very thankful that Yeshua was born (and in that particular vein we do celebrate His birth every day), we do not set aside a day to mark that celebration. If you wish to do so, that is your prerogative, but at the same time I might use your own logic in asking where you see the justification for using the Feast of Trumpets to celebrate the Messiah's birthday. Should we deviate from celebrating this feast day in any manner other than the way prescribed by YHWH in Torah?

Indeed, it appears that you are rebuking Hanukkah observers for memorializing a certain day, even though it doesn't coincide with any holy days, to remember a special victory, while simultaneously adding your own set of guidelines to a Torah-mandated day of observance, independent of any Scriptural approval. If I misunderstand your rebuke and how it subsequently appears that you have transformed the Feast of Trumpets observance, please explain.

You wrote (in response to a paragraph from our study): "All you have to do now is replace the word Christmas with Chanukah and you would have the exact same argument I would have and do have with those who keep Chanukah."



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I reply: You are mistaken in the above assessment, but if you wish to believe it anyway, then I cannot control what you believe. I can only say that it is a mistaken assessment. If you would re-read the paragraph I wrote, substituting "Hanukkah" for "Christmas," I believe the contradictions should be quite apparent. First, you have already agreed that the roots of Hanukkah observance are noble roots, or at least I gather as much when you wrote, **"I too learn about the Macabees. But I do it all through the year so as not to confuse anyone with it and Chanukah and Xmas. Nor is it to replace Sukkot. So we do agree on this."**

Secondly, I would recognize Hanukkah as a violation of Torah IF it actually served to replace another festival. While it was observed in the ninth month for 8 days because they were physically unable to observe Sukkot, it was never considered a replacement for Sukkot or any other feasts. I would also classify Hanukkah as a violation of Torah if it was regarded as a commanded observance, which it obviously is not.

You wrote: ""And Chanukah is another one that although it seems innocent and Jewish it is just another pagan feast day that has been added to replace the sacred season of the 7th month."

I reply: Again, you are mistaken. If June and I observed Hanukkah instead of Sukkot, then your remark would be valid, but since we observe Sukkot in its season and memorialize Hanukkah in the ninth month, this cannot be regarded as a "replacement."

The fact that this memorial is in remembrance of the Jewish victory over pagans proves that it is not "another pagan feast day." I had previously realized that you have little regard for Hanukkah, but I had no idea it was so indelibly etched in your mind that you would stoop to this inflammatory level of verbiage, especially when no one is suggesting that you should even memorialize it.

You then wrote: "You next go on to tell the story of the Macabees. This is fine and all good. I have no problem with this."



I reply: So telling the story of Maccabees is "fine and good," but by taking an hour out of my evening to read that story while pausing to reflect on the bitter struggles that those who refused to abandon Torah were subjected to I am paying homage to a "pagan feast day"? Really?

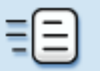
I had written:

Jewish national assemblies had the authority to proclaim a day of gladness, but never the power to raise such a day to a sacred status. Proof that they never intended Hanukkah as a commanded observance can be found in the fact that Judaism has never regarded Hanukkah as a commanded festival. Rather, it is a "minor festival" that many choose to keep as a remembrance of the miracle that happened in Jerusalem, combined with a celebration of the victory of good over evil.

To which you replied: "Again this is good. BUT.. many Ephraimites come out of pagan christmas and now use Chanukah as a replacement for it. MAny Jews use Chanukah to pretend to be normal with the pagan festivals going on. I reject this. The Book of MAcabees is not an ordained book of the bible. Yet some will use it as such."

I reply: So if Ephraimites come out of pagan Christmas and replace it with, say, Passover, would you offer the same rebuke? Many years ago, June and I observed Christmas, but as we came to understand its roots and lack of Scriptural support, we abandoned that observance. A few years later, and not during the Hanukkah season, we learned about Hanukkah observance, including its roots and its meaning. We did not take up memorializing Hanukkah as a replacement for Christmas; rather, it was the result of the same drive to rid ourselves of heathen rites and ceremonies that led us to reject the one and accept the other. If Hanukkah observance was less than noble, we would not have considered memorializing it.

I find it intriguing that you reject Maccabees because it is not "an ordained book of the Bible." Perhaps you are not aware of the fact that Maccabees is included in the Septuagint version of the Bible, which is the version that was most widely used by first-century believers



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and from which NTI writers most frequently quoted. You may also be aware of the fact that it was Luther who made the decision to remove Maccabees from "ordained Scripture." Judaism rejected the Septuagint version when first-century believers began using it to prove that Yeshua is the Messiah.

What is even more intriguing is the fact that you also reject the memorialization of a day that is recognized by a book of "ordained Scripture," namely, the book of Esther. Thus, it obviously wouldn't matter whether or not you felt that Maccabees belongs in 'ordained Scripture,' you would still apparently be opposed to memorializing Hanukkah all because it isn't listed in Leviticus 23.

You wrote "I do as well but for proof of the Sabbatical years which they tell us in plain english. But too many are keeping Chanukah to read these other verses that tell us that."

I reply: So it's okay to use Maccabees for determining correct & Scriptural Sabbatical years, but those same folks who reckoned Sabbatical years initiated 'another pagan feast day,' even though it was the celebration of their victory over pagans who suppressed and outlawed Torah observance?

You wrote "Larry you then go to admit the 8 day oil thing is a false teaching only found in the Talmud. Yet you dismiss this out and out lie in order to justify the keeping of this celebration that is modelled after the 8 days of Saturnalia. AND Diwali all of which are modelled after the worship of Nimrod and the yule log and all that is bad about Christmas. Only now we dress it in Jewish words so it sound OK. By keeping chanukah you are teaching others to accept the lie about the 8 days. And you see nothing wrong with that? Please think on this. You did ask me to tell you and I am being straight. Not trying to slam or hurt you. Just straight up. Not holding any punches.

Please forgive me Larry for using your words on you. I just cannot resist."

I reply: First, please tell me how it is you are using my words on me. I don't follow what you mean or how you did such a thing. Is it something that you should have resisted?



Secondly, I dismiss the 8-day "oil thing" in the same vein that I dismiss having a boded egg on my plate at Passover. It's a [later] tradition that has no foundation in Scripture or truth. If some Jews made up some fable that adds to the Hanukkah story, would you use the fable to disprove and reject the memorial? Yes, you would because that's what you do. This is the same reasoning that I have heard to "disprove" the use of "Elohim" in reference to the Almighty (since it was also applied to heathen idols), as well as crescent new moon observance (since heathens worshipped the crescent moon, and even carved images of it)

Your commentary (without offering me any scholarly support) about Hanukkah being modeled after Saturnalia is more than insulting and I find it unbecoming of a man seeking reasonable discourse. It is becoming of a man who regards himself as an apostle sent by the Almighty and therefore qualified to authoritatively assert himself (and I've run into more than a few such individuals along my wilderness journey). Now IF you have historical evidence that Hanukkah is modeled after Saturnalia, then I believe you should offer it instead of just expecting me to believe such a radical testimony from yourself.

As you yourself know from what I wrote in our study, if all there was to Hanukkah observance was "the eight-day oil thing," then we would have nothing to do with it, and for you to assert that I and I are "teaching others to accept the lie about the 8 days" is unfair and a lie in and of itself. Again, unbecoming of someone whom I thought appreciated the value of frank, open and respectful discourse. If this is what I can expect in future communications with you, then it would be best for us to go our own separate directions.

About your comments that you are not trying to slam or hurt me, but that you are rather being "straight up": This issue isn't really about hurt feelings, and in fact, my feelings are not hurt. However, I am disappointed that you misrepresent Hanukkah on different levels, all the while thinking you are all "stuck up" on this memorial observance. I am disappointed that, in spite of my establishing that the 8 days of Hanukkah stem from the 3 days of Sukkot/Last Great Day, which the Jews had missed out on prior to their victory over Antiochus Epiphanes, you misrepresent me as teaching its observance is in remembrance of a false 8-day miraculous oil fable. I am also disappointed that you present Hanukkah as being modeled after Saturnalia



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without offering so much as a hint of evidence to support such a claim.

I might add your puzzling addition of another pagan holiday that is not only omitted from Scripture, but one that I had never even heard of during my 26+ years of Torah observance: Diwali. Are you now going to accuse me of patterning our Hanukkah observance after a heathen festival that I had never even heard of until you mentioned it?

You wrote: "If these people were willing to die in order not to eat pork, then why are we not willing to obey and NOT ADD TO TORAH, the same Torah that they were willing to die for. (I was not Yelling just emphasizing) We are so easy to just let things go. Yet they had a zeal to want to keep Torah. But...again if they were keeping Torah then where was Yehovah? A question I often think of. Why did He not protect them. How corrupt had they become?"

I reply: I find it calloused to even wonder why YHWH didn't protect His people. This is the same thing folks thought about the Messiah and the many true believers who were killed in spite of their faith in YHWH. Would you have asked the Messiah who had sinned -- the blind man or his parents -- to cause him to be born blind? This is a question that comes to my mind when I read of the question that you often think of.

You add: "If they were wiling to die not to eat pork then we should honour that just as they also during this time would not go to war in a Sabbatical year. They stretched out their necks and said kill us, we will not fight. And thousands were slaughtered. MAcabees and Josephus state this. It was because to these slaughters that they changed the ORAL law and said they could defend themselves but not be the aggressors."

I reply: So, these Jews came up with an "oral law" that forbade anyone from either attacking or defending oneself on Shabbat, but when they discovered that this tactic was resulting in enormous casualties, they decided to at least defend themselves, and this method of self-preservation reflects the change of an "oral law"? I guess that's one way of looking at it, but I guess you need to then minimize or dismiss the Almighty's role in later giving them the victory over Antiochus Epiphanes' army?



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You wrote: "Purim is another one that I tell the brethren not to keep. Once again it is a test. Will you obey Yehovah and add to the Torah, some do. The lament of Tamar, is a new one to me and not one I have to deal with as the brethren are doing this at this time. By adding these other things you are in fact mixing seed. WHICH we both know is condemned by Yehovah. Chanukah and Purim are bringing in festival that are not found in Lev 23 and are created by men. It is the mixing of two different things. One is Holy Lev 23 and the other two are not found in Torah."

I reply: Interesting choice of words with "Purim is another one that I tell the brethren not to keep." Very authoritative of you, but I will go with Scripture just the same and Purim is sanctioned by the book of Esther, which is found in Scripture. One thing I frequently tell others, including an acquaintance with whom I visited today: Please do not believe Scripture as it is interpreted by me, and only believe me as I am supported by Scripture." Something tells me you reject the canonicity of the book of Esther, but if you don't then you will have some explaining to do if you want me to believe that this book denounces the observance of Purim. Yes, Purim is indeed a test -- a test of whether I will recognize Scripture over the teachings of men.

About your "mixing of seed" comment: In other words, you regard the observance of Purim and Hanukkah to be sin, since you know mixing seed it condemned by YHWH. Interesting that you feel qualified to offer this analogy.

You seem to dismiss out-of-hand the lament of Tamar, but I am fairly certain that if folks began a four-day-a year lamentation for Tamar, you would be equally patronizing with them as you are with those who observe Hanukkah, even though that particular observance most certainly has the support of Torah and provides an approved Scriptural example of a memorial that is non-binding and not mandated or spoken of in Leviticus 23. I stand by the following commentary from our study:

Yahweh never commanded anyone to start the custom of lamenting for Tamar, yet neither is there a record of negative implications resulting from that decision. Thus, no one can truthfully



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say that the daughters of Israel made a poor decision in remembering the sacrifice of Tamar. It was a remembrance based upon love and the respect for life. In fact, had they chosen to *not* remember Tamar as they did, one could say that such a decision would have reflected a calloused mentality, an indifference towards the suffering of others.

Thus, the ordaining of special observances, if it does not in any way conflict with Yahweh's Word, is not necessarily a bad thing to do, especially if it is chosen in such a way so as to bring honor to Yahweh and to the memory of those who courageously took a stand for His laws.

You wrote: "I find it amazing how you can correctly state how Jeroboams Feast in the 8th month is wrong yet not see why this one in the 9th month is not wrong as well. Jeroboams was done for the people so they would not have to travel so far to Jerusalem and it too was done to God. (I am playing the devils advocate here) Again do you not see the similarity here?"

I reply: Jeroboam's feast was designed to replace Sukkot. Do you not see the difference here?"

You wrote: "Your next position is one I have already addressed to you in the previous email ABout John 10. The dedication being that of Solomons which was done at Sukkot which was also winter. I could make a very strong case for this point of view. And may in the future do so.

To use the argument that Yeshua did not condemn Chanukah does not legitimize it. Come on. He never said anything about driving cars on the left hand side either although there were chariots there. So this means that we should drive on the right side. This is a lame argument. One that does not hold up in a court of law. And remember we are to judge angels. So if your going to claim chanukah then you have to have sound facts and not hersey or lame arguments. You are not convincing me here at all. Just giving me more ammunition. Sorry."

I reply: So since Yeshua did not officially legitimize Hanukkah in John 10, does this mean He condemned it? Come on, He was "at the scene of the crime" on the very day of Hanukkah. If He would have had anything negative to say about that day, I assure you He would have done so. I can also assure you that Joseph Dumond would have done so.



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Your irrelevant remark about Yeshua's not commenting about which side of the road chariots should be driven on is more than pointless, not only because that would have been a civil issue instead of a Torah issue, but also because of the fact that John specifies that the day on which He made his comments was the day of Hanukkah ("Dedication"), which plainly afforded Him a perfect opportunity to offer the same scathing rebukes that you so freely give the brethren for observing Hanukkah -- yet IF He said any such thing, John for some reason left it out of his account. I find it highly unlikely that John would have left out such a harsh rebuke while including all the other rebukes.

You continue: "No not all traditions are bad, You are right. If Chanukah was not such a big deal and always so close to Xmas and look like another form of Xmas the same as Diwali the Hindu Christmas and the same as the Jewish Christmas is with its Chanukiah bush then I would not object to it. But because it does look like Christmas and sound like Christmas I must protest it until Messiah comes. We Ephraimites have worshipped everything under the sun to glory of god we said when in truth it was not at all and drove us away from Yehovah. Those Jews who kept this observance were driven out of the land in 70 AD and only got back just a few years ago in 1948. They were hunted and persecuted for all of this time. Do you think it might be because they have mixed the truth with the untruth and Yehovah was chastising them to repent? The same as He is now with us with the severe weather and terrorism and soon war. It is because we will not obey Him. We need to have that Zeal that the Macabees had and not add to Torah even it pains us to death!!! You are making an assumption based on a false premise that this is OK. It is not."

I reply: If I were to follow your reasoning of abandoning Hanukkah observance because of its close proximity to Christmas (on the calendar), I would have to likewise abandon Passover/Unleavened Bread observance because of their close proximity to Easter. The only reason it "looks like Christmas" is because some folks choose to dress it up like Christmas. According to Josephus, Hanukkah is the original "Festival of Lights," so Christmas observers seem to have borrowed their extensive use of lights from ancient Hanukkah observances. Modern-day Hanukkah observers who put up a "Hanukkah bush" are obviously imitating the Christmas tree. I say, let's keep the original "Festival of Lights" connected to the memorial from which it originated and toss out the imitation Hanukkah bushes.



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From your self-righteous perch, you judge those Jews who were hunted and killed as deserving of their fate. If only you could understand that none of us deserves Yahweh's mercy and protection and many who deserved it waaaaay more than we do were nevertheless tortured and killed. If only we could stop pointing fingers at others and rationalizing why they were killed, while taking comfort in the false sense of security that we are somehow better than they were.

You wrote: "Yehovah told Moses to build a stake with a snake on it to heal the people when ever they looked on it. OUR modern symbol for the Doctors. Hezekiah comes along and see the people worship this same image that Yehovah told Moses to make and Hezekiah destroys it so that the people do not fall in idol worship. The people are perverting the original memory of this time of MACabees. We, which is what I am doing, need to destroy this festival as it is polluted with Christmas worship as your quote admits and so do you. Jus plain stop doing it. Until we get right with YEhovah. Until Xmas is not even a memory. And then we can have a Macabee remembrance day on Say July 7th. Just because it ties into no other days."

I reply: Once again, you are using perverted logic. By your logic, we should discontinue looking for new moons because pagans worshipped the new moon and even carved images of the crescent moon. By your logic, we should forget YHWH's covenant of the rainbow because of the gay community's use of the rainbow as their symbol. Your vigilante style of stamping out anything that you decree is stained with paganism may sound noble on the surface, and your example of Hezekiah and Nehushtan almost seems to fit, but in the final analysis they are not the same. The one is an image that people were to look upon for healing -- later converted to an object of worship. The other is an observance with a noble origin that man (as usual) has found a way to corrupt. The solution is no more to dissolve the memorial observance any more than it is to dissolve the name YAH because it became known as the name of a moon deity.

I may have left out comments on other portions of your response. If so, I apologize. Let me know what I have left unanswered and I will do my best to get back with you.

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Shalom in YHWH,

Larry

In a message dated 11/25/2012 7:56:27 P.M. Central Standard Time,
admin@sightedmoon.com writes:

Shalom once again Larry, I am going to comment here as I read your article. The first thing I do with articles like this is replace Christmas with Chanukah and see just how many times they fit. It is just one of the things I do. Not meant to insult you. Please do not forget I do still hold you both in high regard since we first met way back in 2008.

You are saying we do not celebrate the birth of Yehshua. This is not right. We celebrate His birth every year. It is at the same time as His return. The Feast of Trumpets. You can read my article on The Return of Yehshua and Conjunction or Sighted Which?

You said

"those of us who understand the true roots of its observance, combined with the Scriptural admonition to not mix our faith with the practices of heathens,⁴ recognize the observance of Christmas as a violation of Torah. Add to this the fact that Christmas observance, along with other commonly accepted holidays, is treated as a replacement of the observance of our Creator's ordained holy days, and we can understand that it is a partial fulfillment of the prophecy of Daniel 7:25. In this chapter we read of a symbolic "little horn" that comes out of the fourth beast mentioned in the prophetic account. Notice one of the characteristics of this "little horn":

²⁵ He shall speak words against the Most High, shall wear out the holy ones of the Most High, and shall attempt to change the sacred seasons and the law."



All you have to do now is replace the word Christmas with Chanukah and you would have the exact same argument I would have and do have with those who keep Chanukah.

Again you say "

It has persuaded most of the civilized world that our Creator's laws have been either "changed" or "done away," and the "sacred seasons" or holy feast days ordained by our Creator have been replaced with such counterparts as Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas, all of which on the surface seem so innocent and pure, but under the close scrutiny of Scripture, are abominations.⁵

And Chanukah is another one that although it seems innocent and Jewish it is just another pagan feast day that has been added to replace the the sacred season of the 7th month.

You next go on to tell the story of the Macabees. This is fine and all good. I have no problem with this. YOu even go on to say

Jewish national assemblies had the authority to proclaim a day of gladness, but never the power to raise such a day to a sacred status. Proof that they never intended Hanukkah as a commanded observance can be found in the fact that Judaism has never regarded Hanukkah as a commanded festival. Rather, it is a "minor festival" that many choose to keep as a remembrance of the miracle that happened in Jerusalem, combined with a celebration of the victory of good over evil.

Again this is good. BUT.. many Ephramites come out of pagan christmas and now use Chanukah as a replacement for it. MAny Jews use Chanukah to pretend to be normal with the pagan festivals going on. I reiect this. The Book of MACabees is not an ordained book

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of the bible. Yet some will use it as such.

I do as well but for proof of the Sabbatical years which they tell us in plain english. But too many are keeping Chanukah to read these other verses that tell us that.

Larry you then go to admit the 8 day oil thing is a false teaching only found in the Talmud. Yet you dismiss this out and out lie in order to justify the keeping of this celebration that is modelled after the 8 days of Saturnalia. AND Diwali all of which are modelled after the worship of Nimrod and the yule log and all that is bad about Christmas. Only now we dress it in Jewish words so it sound OK. By keeping chanukah you are teaching others to accept the lie about the 8 days. And you see nothing wrong with that? PLease think on this. You did ask me to tell you and I am being straight. Not trying to slam or hurt you. Just straight up. Not holding any punches.

Please forgive me Larry for using your words on you. I just cannot resist.

YOu said "

Read the account of the mother and her seven sons (2 Maccabees chapter 7). She watched as Antiochus Epiphanes attempted to persuade each one to taste swine's flesh. For those in today's society who regard Yahweh's laws as having been "done away," this would seem like such a minor, trivial request. Punishment for refusing to eat the pork was torture, followed by death in an immense frying pan. Surely, one might reason, they should have consented to eat the pork. Those who recognize the holiness and the permanence of Yahweh's laws, however, understand that dishonoring our



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Heavenly Father in such a way is simply not an option. Such was the understanding of the mother and her seven sons. One by one, each refused, and one by one they were all tortured, maimed and fried alive. "

If these people were willing to die in order not to eat pork, then why are we not willing to obey and NOT ADD TO TORAH, the same Torah that they were willing to die for. (I was not Yelling just emphasizing) We are so easy to just let things go. Yet they had a zeal to want to keep Torah. But...again if they were keeping Torah then where was Yehovah? A question I often think of. Why did He not protect them. How corrupt had they become?

If they were wiling to die not to eat pork then we should honour that just as they also during this time would not go to war in a Sabbatical year. They stretched out their necks and said kill us, we will not fight. And thousands were slaughtered. MACabees and Josephus state this. It was because to these slaughters that they changed the ORAL law and said they could defend themselves but not be the aggressors.

Yet they forget that Joshua fought in the Jubilee years when he crossed the jordan. Another subject but again showing the misplaced zeal. Yes Misplaced.

You go on in your justification section to say.

For those who claim that it constitutes "adding to the Word," we can only remind them of the previously cited examples of Purim and the custom of lamenting for Tamar. If ordaining the observance of Hanukkah constitutes "adding to the Word," then so do the observances of



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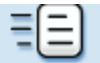
Purim and lamenting for Tamar. Since we recognize that both of these observances have the blessing of Yahweh, we believe Hanukkah does as well.

Purim is another one that I tell the brethren not to keep. Once again it is a test. Will you obey Yehovah and add to the Torah, some do. The lament of Tamar, is a new one to me and not one I have to deal with as the brethren are doing this at this time. By adding these other things you are in fact mixing seed. Which we both know is condemned by Yehovah. Chanukah and Purim are bringing in festival that are not found in Lev 23 and are created by men. It is the mixing of two different things. One is Holy Lev 23 and the other two are not found in Torah.

I find it amazing how you can correctly state how Jeroboams Feast in the 8th month is wrong yet not see why this one in the 9th month is not wrong as well. Jeroboams was done for the people so they would not have to travel so far to Jerusalem and it too was done to God. (I am playing the devils advocate here) Again do you not see the similarity here?

Your next position is one I have already addressed to you in the previous email. About John 10. The dedication being that of Solomons which was done at Sukkot which was also winter. I could make a very strong case for this point of view. And may in the future do so.

To use the argument that Yehshua did not condemn Chanukah does not legitimize it. Come on. He never said anything about driving cars on the left hand side either although there were chariots there. So this means that we should drive on the right side. This is a lame argument. One that does not hold up in a court of law. And remember we are to judge angels. So if your going to claim chanukah then you have to have sound facts and not



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hersey or lame arguments. You are not convincing me here at all. Just giving me more ammunition. Sorry.

You then go on to say next which you also agreed with.

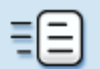
"Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of Eloah, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups, and many other such like things ye do."¹⁸

No not all traditions are bad, You are right. If Chanukah was not such a big deal and always so close to Xmas and look like another form of Xmas the same as Diwali the Hindu Christmas and the same as the Jewish Christmas is with its Chanukiah bush then I would not object to it. But because it does look like Christmas and sound like Christmas I must protest it until Messiah comes. We Ephraimties have worshipped everything under the sun to glory of god we said when in truth it was not at all and drove us away from Yehovah. Those Jews who kept this observance were driven out of the land in 70 AD and only got back just a few years ago in 1948. They were hunted and persecuted for all of this time. Do you think it might be because they have mixed the truth with the untruth and Yehovah was chastising them to repent? The same as He is now with us with the severe wether and terrorism and soon war. It is because we will not obey Him. We need to have that Zeal that the Macabees had and not add to Torah even it pains us to death!!!

You are making an assumption based on a false premise that this is OK. It is not.

The author brought up some legitimate dangers in Hanukkah observance that we believe should be addressed. Notice his warning:

"In sincerity many brethren keep the Feast of Dedication. The Feast of Dedication cannot replace and should not compete with Sukkot. Chanukah is not a commanded feast and lacks the foundation of Yahweh's unchanging pattern by which we are to live. Yah'shua's example in John doesn't specify either a recommendation or command to keep Chanukah. The result is that



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Chanukah is a personal preference that has to be tempered with knowledge and love. The downside of Chanukah is that some use it as a substitute for Christmas."

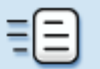
We share the author's concern that Hanukkah observance cannot replace and should not compete with Sukkot (the Feast of Tabernacles). We have already pointed out that Hanukkah was never intended to replace any of Yahweh's ordained feasts. We also mentioned that it was only when people used a tradition to replace or otherwise subvert Yahweh's Word that Yeshua had a problem, and He never expressed any objections to the observance of Hanukkah.

Furthermore, as the author established, Hanukkah is not a commanded feast. We addressed this particular concern in chapter 4, section one, so for now we will simply state that Hanukkah is not a festival that we should dogmatically insist that others observe. Rather, we believe that its observance should be a matter of what is laid upon our hearts to do.

The author pointed out that a down side to Hanukkah lies in its being used as a substitute for Christmas. We are also opposed to such a manner of observance. Hanukkah was instituted by people who were opposed to compromising our beliefs by incorporating heathen customs into our faith. It therefore makes no sense to undermine the true significance of Hanukkah by incorporating Christmas customs into our Hanukkah observance.

I whole heartedly agree with this. I too learn about the Macabees. But I do it all through the year so as not to confuse anyone with it and Chanukah and Xmas. Nor is it to replace Sukkot. So we do agree on this.

"Chanukkah is probably one of the best known Jewish holidays, not because of any great religious significance, but because of its proximity to Christmas. Many non-Jews (and even many assimilated Jews!) think of this holiday as the Jewish Christmas, adopting many of the Christmas customs,



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such as elaborate gift- giving and decoration. It is bitterly ironic that this holiday, which has its roots in a revolution against assimilation and the suppression of Jewish religion, has become the most assimilated, secular holiday on our calendar."

Great quote. Yehovah told Moses to build a stake with a snake on it to heal the people when ever they looked on it. OUR modern symbol for the Doctors.

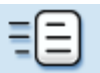
Hezekiah comes along and see the people worship this same image that Yehovah told Moses to make and Hezekiah destroys it so that the people do not fall in idol worship. The people are perverting the original memory of this time of MACabees. We, which is what I am doing, need to destroy this festival as it is polluted with Christmas worship as your quote admits and so do you. Jus plain stop doing it. Until we get right with YEhovah. Until Xmas is not even a memory. And then we can have a Macabee remembrance day on Say July 7th. Just because it ties into no other days.

I myself will most likely read MACabees in my studies. But I will not light a Menorah nor a Chankiah. Nor play the credal or eat lakte. No I will remember the time and the events but I will not celebrate it all lest I assist another person to justify the keeping of it to replace Xmas. We have 7 Feast commanded to us to keep. When we have perfected that then we shall do it again and add none to it.

Thank you for writing. I hope you see my position. AS I do yours. We have far too many replacing xmas as even you stated in the beginning you were looking for something to replace it with. I do hope although we do not agree on this we will continue to be in touch. I do not hate you for doing this. We do not agree that all.

Shalom from

Grandpa Joseph F Dumond



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May Yehovah bless you and guard you -
Yeh-va-reh-cheh-cha Yehovah veh-yeesh-meh-reh-cha
May Yehovah make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you -
Ya-air Yehovah pa-naiv ay-leyh-cha vee-chu-neh-cha
May Yehovah lift up his face onto you and give you peace -
Yee-sa Yehovah pa-nahv ay-leyh-cha veh-ya-same leh-cha Shalom

Yehovah is the name of the Creator. Yah is His short poetic name as in HalleluYah which is Hebrew for Praise be to Yah. Yeshua haMashiach is Hebrew for Jesus the Messiah, who was raised and was Jewish. The Hebrew word Shalom means much more than peace, hello or goodbye. In essence it means: ***Completeness, wholeness, health, peace, welfare, safety soundness, tranquillity, prosperity, perfectness, fullness, rest, harmony, the absence of agitation or discord.*** This is the highest form of greeting somebody, and with this we greet you in His precious name.

From: Seekutruth@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, November 25, 2012 3:51 PM
To: admin@sightedmoon.com
Subject: Re: The Festival of Lights; Do we have to deal with this again?

Shalom, Joseph,

Greetings in the name of YHWH. I have understood for some time that you do not support the observance of Hanukkah, and I feel each of us should feel free to make our own decisions about whether or not to recognize the legitimacy of this observance without being criticized or rebuked from those of the other persuasion. I have not previously chosen to offer you my perspective because I do not really wish to engage anyone in a disagreement over an observance that I feel is voluntary anyway. Years



ago, a dear acquaintance rebuked us for having sent her a Hanukkah card and in her written response she challenged us on several points, while outlining why she felt that true believers should have nothing to do with Hanukkah observance.

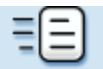
My answer to her challenges was in the form of a study that is available for review on our web site at the following link:

<http://ponderscripture.org/PDF%20Files/Hanukkah.pdf>

We understand that many have already formed their opinions about the legitimacy of Hanukkah observance (which we consider to be more of a memorial than a "festival," as it is so often called). For June and me, it is simply a time that we set aside (usually of an evening) to pause and reflect upon the past struggles of those who preferred death over forsaking Torah observance, while simultaneously giving the Almighty thanks for the freedoms that we now have. Some who share our understanding join us for reading and discussion, but, of course, it is strictly voluntary.

Our study addresses every anti-Hanukkah arguments that we have run across, but if you have any that we have omitted, we invite you to bring them to our attention because we only want to do that which is pleasing to YHWH. I only write this to you because you asked the question, "If is not [written in Leviticus 23] then why on earth are you doing it." You proceeded to compare Hanukkah observance to spiritual idolatry. Of course, if we are not observing the directives found in Leviticus 23 while observing Hanukkah, then there is an obvious problem. Is there still a problem if one observes the commands found in Leviticus 23 while also memorializing Hanukkah? I believe our study effectively answers this question.

With all the world problems facing us today, I am persuaded that we are better served seeking areas of unity and focusing on them instead of pointing accusatory fingers at folks who truly seek to honor the Almighty and His Son. At the same time, if setting aside an hour of time each evening for eight days to reflect on the bitter struggles of those who came before us, while giving YHWH thanks that we can at least observe



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and practice Torah without fear of government retribution, -- if this should be regarded as spiritual idolatry, then I want to know how and why so I can immediately make the decision to stop.

Shalom to you and your family,

Larry Acheson

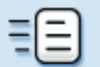
In a message dated 11/23/2012 3:35:53 P.M. Central Standard Time, admin@sightedmoon.com writes:

News Letter 5848-039??
9th day of the 9th month?5848 years after the creation of Adam????
The 9th Month in the Third year of the third Sabbatical Cycle????
The Third Sabbatical Cycle of the 119th Jubilee Cycle?????
The Sabbatical Cycle of Earthquakes Famines, and Pestilences?????
This is also the end of the Thirty-Fifth week of this the Third Tithe Year for the Levite, the alien, the fatherless and the widow?Deuteronomy 26:12??
We are now just 4 years & 3 months from the Sabbatical year in 2016???
November 24, 2012

Shabbat Shalom Brethren,

Last week I inadvertently titled the intro to the 7th commandment with the same title from three days before. I apologize for this mistake on my part. It was not the same article being sent out a second time.

We were to have our second part this week on the 7th Commandment, but.. it is once again that time of the year when the world celebrates the Festival of Lights. And as much as I hate rebuking those who feel the need to keep this festival which is not found in the Torah, I once again must warn those who are knew to this walk, not to follow the crowd and to stick to the Torah. If it is written in Leviticus 23 then do it. If is not then why on earth are you doing it. Why are you committing spiritual idolatry which we talked about last week. Each of you must decide what you are going to do. We will continue to provide you with the truth even if many do not like it.



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On this past Thursday we were buying our meat at a Kosher Jewish store in Toronto. All over the Store were Happy Hanukkah signs. My wife was with me. And as we were going about the store, they were playing Christmas Carols. My wife turns to me and says what is that? All I could do was roll my eyes and shrug my shoulders. I let her know we are not going to keep Hanukkah now. My wife continues to keep Christmas against my will. It is all the Festival of lights and not found in Leviticus 23.

We ask you to keep us in your prayers as www.sightedmoon.com is in the process of changing and reorganizing. We pray we are doing Yehovah's will in all of this to bring glory to His name. Stay tuned.

To read the rest of this weeks News Letter go to
http://www.sightedmoonnl.com/?page_id=817

To see past News Letters you can go to one of the following for each of the years they were posted.

2012 NEWS LETTERS FOR THE YEAR 5848

http://www.sightedmoonnl.com/?page_id=778

2011 NEWS LETTERS FOR THE YEAR 5847

[HTTP://WWW.SIGHTEDMOONNL.COM/?PAGE_ID=719](http://www.sightedmoonnl.com/?page_id=719)

2010 NEWS LETTERS FOR THE YEAR 5846

[HTTP://WWW.SIGHTEDMOONNL.COM/?PAGE_ID=619](http://www.sightedmoonnl.com/?page_id=619)

2009 NEWS LETTERS FOR THE YEAR 5845

[HTTP://WWW.SIGHTEDMOONNL.COM/?PAGE_ID=483](http://www.sightedmoonnl.com/?page_id=483)

2008 NEWS LETTERS FOR THE YEAR 5844

[HTTP://WWW.SIGHTEDMOON.COM/?PAGE_ID=219](http://www.sightedmoon.com/?page_id=219)

2007 NEWS LETTERS FOR THE YEAR 5843

[HTTP://WWW.SIGHTEDMOON.COM/?PAGE_ID=144](http://www.sightedmoon.com/?page_id=144)

Thank you all for your enacouragement and support.

Shalom from

Grandpa Joseph F Dumond

www.sightedmoon.com

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May Yehovah bless you and guard you -
Yeh-va-reh-cheh-cha Yehovah veh-yeesh-meh-reh-cha
May Yehovah make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you -
Ya-air Yehovah pa-naiv ay-leych-cha vee-chu-neh-cha
May Yehovah lift up his face onto you and give you peace -
Yee-sa Yehovah pa-nahv ay-leyh-cha veh-ya-same leh-cha Shalom

Yehovah is the name of the Creator. Yah is His short poetic name as in HalleluYah which is Hebrew for Praise be to Yah. Yehshua haMashiach is Hebrew for Jesus the Messiah, who was raised and was Jewish. The Hebrew word Shalom means much more than peace, hello or goodbye. In essence it means: Completeness, wholeness, health, peace, welfare, safety soundness, tranquillity, prosperity, perfectness, fullness, rest, harmony, the absence of agitation or discord. This is the highest form of greeting somebody, and with this we greet you in His precious name.

This message was sent to seekutruth@aol.com from:
Sightedmoon Ministry | 14 Willow Cres. | Orangeville , Ontario L9V1A5, Canada

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