

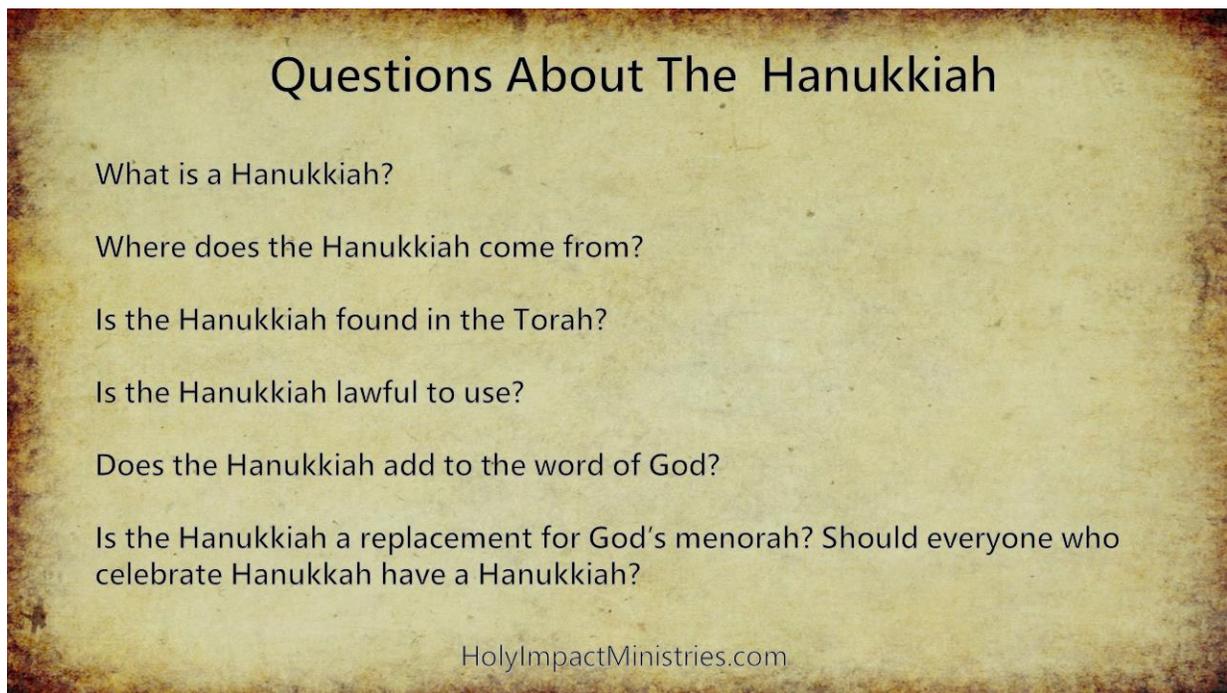


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Pastor Scott Velain

## Defending The Hanakkiah And Understanding Elohim

At Holy Impact Ministries, we have several teachings concerning the Feast of Dedication, also known as “Hanukkah”, and so we won’t go back into all of the finer details concerning the Feast of Dedication because we’ve already touched on those things in previous teachings. But one of the things that we do get asked about from time to time, is about the Hanukkiah.



And so, it has come to our attention, that many Christians who are turning back to what the Scripture says, and away from the traditions, and rituals, and pagan practices of today’s modern-day version of Christianity, are concerned about using a Hanukkiah during the Feast of Dedication, also known as “Hanukkah”.

In first Peter 3:15 we’re told to *“always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.”* And so today we’re going to make a defense, and give a reason for the hope that is in us, and not only that... But we will also defend the things that we do, and the tools that we use to help us teach our children diligently, the things of the one true

God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, including, but not limited to... The Hanukkah.

Let's start with the first question. "What is a Hanukkah?" In order to understand what a Hanukkah is... We must first understand what a Hanukkah is not. First of all, the Hanukkah is not a replacement of our father's menorah. The menorah was specifically designed by our Father in Heaven, and it was placed in the same chamber, in the tabernacle that housed the showbread table and the Golden incense altar. Every day Aaron the high priest, or one of his successors, would light the menorah. The original menorah was built in the desert along with the rest of the tabernacle. And it went wherever the tabernacle went. When King Solomon built the first Temple in Jerusalem, the menorah was lit there until that temple was destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. When the second Holy Temple was built by Ezra a new menorah was constructed exactly the way that our father in heaven instructed the first one to be constructed, and it was lit every day. The menorah only has seven candlesticks. Originally candles were not used. Originally these seven branches held small reservoirs of oil that was specifically manufactured to light the seven branches of the menorah.

In the second century before our Messiah arrived on the scene, there arose a shadow picture of the antichrist. His name was Antiochus Epiphanes. During this time the holy land was ruled by the Seleucids (also known as the Syrian Greeks), who forced the people of Israel to accept the Greek culture along with its pagan little "g" gods instead of the observance of the laws, precepts, commandments, and appointments of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. They killed the Jewish high priests, they ruthlessly murdered their children, they erected an altar to the God "Zeus" inside the holy Temple, and they slaughtered pigs on the altar of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, to their pagan god "Zeus".

Our Jewish brothers and sisters were murdered in cold blood. Their children were scalped, boiled alive in oil, and babies who were found to be circumcised according to Jewish law, were murdered, and their corpses were hung around the necks of their mothers. And these are just a few of the atrocities that our Jewish brothers and sisters were forced to live through during that time.

Of course, as we already know through our previous studies... A man by the name of Judah Maccabee defeated one of the mightiest armies on earth, and drove the Greeks from the holy land, and re-claimed the holy Temple, and rededicated it to the service of our Father in Heaven.

In order to commemorate and publicize the power of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, the Jewish sages of that time instituted the festival of Hanukkah so that we would remember the awesome power of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and how he once again saved his children from the hand of our adversary.

Within the writings of these Jewish sages is found an old Jewish legend that tells us about the rededication of the temple. And this Jewish legend tells us that when the Maccabees finally did take back the land and the temple, they only found enough oil to burn in the menorah for one

day. But it took eight days to read dedicate the temple. As the legend goes... The menorah remained lit for 8 days until new oil could be prepared under the conditions of ritual purity.

According to Jewish tradition, one candle of the Hanukkiah is lit representing each of the eight days that it took to read dedicate the temple. The center candle of the Hanukkiah is called the “*Shamash*” candle. To “*Shema*” means to hear and obey. The “*Shamash*” candle represents our very Jewish Messiah, who came to teach us how to hear and obey the commandments, precepts, laws, and appointments of his Father, who is the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

There are stark differences between the Hanukkiah, and the Menorah. The menorah needs to be constructed in one piece made of gold. The Hanukkiah can be made out of any kind of metal and is mostly forged from silver. The menorah has seven branches or candlesticks. The Hanukkiah has nine branches or candlesticks. The menorah stands inside the temple of our father in heaven. The Hanukkiah stands outside the temple and is strictly used to remember how our father in heaven rescued his chosen people from the hand of the devil himself, who came as a shadow picture of the soon to come ultimate “anti-Christ”.

Some modern-day Christians do not like the idea that eight of the candlesticks on the Hanukkiah represent the eight days of dedication because they claim it only takes seven days to dedicate a temple according to the Scripture, but this once again comes from ignorance, and those who are unstudied. What took place in the rededication of the temple during the time of the Maccabees... Was exactly what took place in the dedication of the temple in Solomon’s time. Let’s turn to second Chronicles 7:8-9:

*2Ch 7:8 At that time Solomon held the feast for seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly, from Lebo-hamath to the Brook of Egypt.*

*2Ch 7:9 And on **the eighth day** they held a solemn assembly, for they had kept the dedication of the altar seven days and the feast seven days.*

And so, it should be clear to us that there was indeed an eighth day held as a solemn assembly, and therefore once again we find that no one has added to the word of God. The Hanukkiah was created by the Jewish sages as a tool to teach our children diligently the things that the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob had done, and what this rededication meant to our Jewish brothers and sisters, and what they had been through. And it also teaches our children how important it is to re-dedicate our temples to our Father in Heaven each and every day.

The next question we often hear is “*is the Hanukkiah found in the Torah?*” The answer to that question is simply “no”. The Hanukkiah itself is not found in the writings of the Torah because the Hanukkiah was not created until after the Torah was written. The book of Maccabees, along with the writings of “*Flavius Josephus*” (who was the first century Jewish historian) were written after the Torah had been completed. The book of Maccabees along with the writings of Flavius Josephus give us insight as to what happened to the Jewish people between the Old Testament and the New Testament. Without the writings of the historian Flavius Josephus, and

the book of Maccabees, we would have no record of those lost years. But because we do have those historical writings, we can clearly understand that our father in heaven wanted that temple to be standing when his only begotten son arrived on the scene.

What our modern day denominational brothers and sisters do not understand, is that our Messiah attended all of his father's feast days religiously. And this included the "Feast of Dedication", also known as "Hanukkah". Let's turn to John 10:22-23:

*Joh 10:22 At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter,  
Joh 10:23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon.*

So, let there be no doubt that our Messiah did indeed attend, and thereby sanctify the "Feast of Dedication", also known as Hanukkah. And let it also be noted, that our Messiah never chastised anyone for using a Hanukkiah in his time. Nor did he chastise anyone for keeping the "Feast of Dedication". He himself... Kept the "Feast of Dedication" also known as Hanukkah.

Some people will beat on their chest and stop on the floor and pound their fist on the desk and proclaim that the Hanukkiah is adding to the word of God, but I would submit to you my friends that the Hanukkiah in no way adds to the word of God, but rather establishes the word of God. We who use a Hanukkiah to teach our children the word of God diligently, do not proclaim to anyone that they *must have* a Hanukkiah. Nor do we proclaim that God ever commanded anyone to have a Hanukkiah in their home, any more than he commanded anyone to have a menorah in their home. In order to add to the word of God, you must be saying that these things are commanded by God.

Some of our uneducated brothers and sisters will point to the second commandment, and the idea that we are not supposed to make for ourselves a graven image, but I would submit to them, that they need to go back and read the actual commandment for themselves, because it is they who are adding to the word of God. Let's turn to Exodus 20:4:

*Exo 20:4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*

*Exo 20:5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,*

*Exo 20:6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

First of all, there is no record of a Hanukkiah being in heaven above, nor was it in the earth beneath, nor was it in the water under the earth. Second of all, no one bows down to a Hanukkiah to take presents from underneath it, or to serve it, or to worship it. Third of all, the Hanukkiah has never been used in pagan worship of any kind. It is simply a tool that is used to help us to teach our children diligently the things of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and

Jacob and his only begotten son.

And so, then some people will ask “*is the Hanukkah lawful to use?*” And the answer to that question is simply yes... It is indeed lawful to use, because it is not unlawful to use it. Nowhere in any of the 66 books of our Bibles are we commanded not to use a Hanukkah to help us to teach our children the history of our Jewish brothers and sisters, and how our father in heaven rescued them from a type and shadow of the antichrist that is soon to come.

So, let's recap very quickly these rather silly questions that we are asked from time to time about the Hanukkah. **What is a Hanukkah?** Is a tool that was used by the Jewish sages to remind their children of the power of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob who rescued his children from the hand of a shadow of the antichrist that is soon to come. **Is the Hanukkah found in the Torah?** The Hanukkah itself is not found in the Torah because the Hanukkah itself was not created until well after the Torah was written... however... The principles, and the teachings, and the power, and the saving grace of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, that the Hanukkah represents... are all found in the Torah. **Is the Hanukkah lawful to use?** There is no commandment found in either the Torah, or the New Testament, from the prophets, or our Messiah, or the apostles, that ever forbids the use of a Hanukkah to be used by God's children. **Does the Hanukkah add to the word of God?** We who use the Hanukkah as a tool to teach our children diligently, the things of God... do not proclaim that anyone must have a Hanukkah in their home, any more than we proclaim that anyone must have a menorah in their home. We do not claim that our father in heaven commands anyone to have a Hanukkah, but we do claim that what the Hanukkah teaches, does indeed come from the very breath of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and his only begotten son. **Is the Hanukkah a replacement of God's menorah?** In no way is the Hanukkah a replacement of our father's menorah. Nor was it ever meant to be a replacement of our father's menorah. In no Scripture, and in no history book, will you find that the Hanukkah was ever meant to be a replacement for our father's menorah. The Hanukkah does in fact point directly to our father's menorah that was standing in the temple during the rededication of his temple. **Should everyone who celebrates Hanukkah have a Hanukkah in their home?** Absolutely not. There are some of our Jewish brothers and sisters who celebrate the Feast of Dedication with a menorah instead of a Hanukkah, and there is nothing wrong with celebrating the Feast of Dedication with a simple menorah. But it also should be realized by our brothers and sisters, that nowhere in the Scriptures is anyone required to have a menorah in their homes either. The menorah was commanded to be kept in the temple, and in the temple alone. So, it could be said that those of our brothers and sisters who use the menorah in their home are just as guilty as those of us who are using a Hanukkah in our home. But the question then begs... Guilty of what? Because once again... We are not commanded not to keep a Hanukkah, or, a menorah in our homes. Neither of them are of pagan origins.

In the end my friends I think it's extremely important to keep these things in perspective. Our father in heaven wants us to remember him. Our father in heaven wants us to teach these things diligently to our children. The Hanukkah is no more pagan than the menorah is pagan. We do

not use pagan things to worship our father in heaven or his only begotten son. Nor do we drag pagan things into our homes and falsely proclaim to be worshiping him by doing these things.

Not every tradition is evil. Not every tradition was created under false pretenses. Not every tradition is wrong in the eyes of our father in heaven. The Jewish people have many traditions that are very beautiful and help to teach our children the things of our Father in Heaven. Not all traditions are pagan. And not all traditions add to or take away from our father's word. You may have a tradition of opening your prayer a certain way to honor our father in heaven. You may have a tradition of leaving one seat at your table open for Elijah who is said to come before the return of our Messiah. You may have a tradition of using a Hanukkah to represent the eight days of dedication, and to teach your children how, and why, the temple was still standing when our Messiah arrived on the scene. And so not every tradition is evil.

As modern-day Christians I would submit to you my friends that we have enough to argue about concerning the false doctrines and teachings and rituals and pagan traditions that are being used within the Christian community today, without arguing about what tools and traditions that we use to teach the truth of God's word to our children.

If you choose to use a Hanukkah to teach your friends and your family and your children about the power and the mercy and the grace of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob then our father in heaven bless you. If you choose to use a menorah to teach your friends and your family and your children about the power and the mercy and the grace of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, then our father in heaven bless you. If you choose to not use a Hanukkah, or a menorah in your home to teach your friends and family and your children about the power and the mercy and the grace of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, then our father in heaven bless you just the same.

In the end my friends... We are commanded to live in peace. We are commanded to love one another as we love ourselves. We are commanded to walk in his paths, and in his ways, and in his righteousness. And we are commanded not to put a stumbling block before our brother that he may stumble over it. But let us remember to keep that compassion. Let us remember to keep that love in our hearts, and let us not always be looking for something to point at our brother or our sister about. If it is not in direct opposition of the word of God... Then let us remain quiet, and reverent, and respectful, and humble. And let us not be so carried away in our own self-righteous, and sanctimonious vanity, that we lose sight of the fact that our father loves our brothers and sisters just as much as he loves us.

Contend for the faith? Yes! Indeed! Contend for the faith diligently, and always be ready to preach the word, in season and out of season, and to reprove, and to rebuke, and to exhort with all complete patience and teaching... But let us not become complacent about the things that we reprove, and rebuke, and let us not become relaxed and sloppy about the things that we reprove, and rebuke. Instead... Let us be looking equally... For the good things that we find in our brothers and sisters, so that we can lift them up, and strengthened them, thereby strengthening

ourselves as well.

Now as for part two of this study, we're going to be taking a close look at the word "God" in our modern-day Bibles, because believe it or not... what we see during the events of The Feast of Dedication, also known as "Hanukkah", are going to happen again in the very near future. And so, as we celebrate the Feast of Dedication, it's important that we prepare our children for what is soon to come. And so, to help us better understand exactly what it is that we are up against, and who it is that we are up against... It is important to understand who the powers and principalities are that war against us and our children.

Many of us have rightly been taught that there is only one true "God". There is one ultimate "God" who is the one true "God" of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, however... How many modern-day Christians today are aware of the fact that there are other "god's" found in our Bibles? And not just pagan "gods". Did you know that our father in heaven calls those spiritual beings who are part of his Divine Counsel "gods"?

If these things sound foreign to you, or even borderline blasphemous... Or if you are unaware of what these things have to do with the Feast of Dedication... Stay with us, as we venture into the second part of today's study concerning the word "*God*" which has been translated from the Hebrew word "*Elohim*".

The apostle Paul clearly tells us that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, and against spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places. Who are these authorities? Who are these spiritual forces of evil? Who was it that drove Antiochus Epiphanies to slaughter the children of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob? Was it simply a sick and demented human mind that caused Antiochus Epiphanies to do these things...? Or was there more than what meets the eye guiding and driving him to do these wicked things?

This past Wednesday during our Bible study, into Genesis chapter 5 and the first part of Genesis chapter 6, we spoke about the Hebrew word "*Elohim*". In our English Bibles the word "*God*" is the word that we often see in both the old, and the New Testaments, but the original Hebrew word for "God", is "*Elohim*". What's important to know and to understand, is that the Hebrew word "*Elohim*" does not always pertain to the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. The word "*Elohim*" or "*God*", can also be used as both singular, and plural, meaning many. For instance, if I said the word "sheep" what comes to mind? Do you think of a single sheep standing in the field... or do you think of a herd of sheep grazing in a field? The word "sheep" is just like the word "*Elohim*". It can be used as both singular, or plural. There are many words in our English language that are used in the same way. Another example would be "Buffalo". When someone says the word "Buffalo", do you think of a single buffalo standing in a field... Or do you think of a herd of buffalo out in a field? What's important to understand, is that the

word “*Elohim*” can be used in exactly the same way. Sometimes “*Elohim*” refers to the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. Other times, the word “*Elohim*” can refer to divine beings, Angels, and even idols, sometimes referring to one being, and other times referring to many beings. The only way to know how the word “*Elohim*” or “*God*”, is being used, is by understanding the context of the sentence that it’s being used in.

For example, let’s turn to

*Gen\_1:1 In the beginning, **God** (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth.*

Here in Genesis chapter 1 verse one, we see that the word “God” (which is actually the original Hebrew word “Elohim”) is used in its singular form. It’s talking about one God. Not many gods. But I want us to stop right here for a moment so that we can understand the definition of the word “Elohim”.

“God”  
'elôhîym

BDB Definition:

- 1) (plural)
  - 1a) rulers, judges
  - 1b) divine ones
  - 1c) angels
  - 1d) gods
- 2) (plural intensive - singular meaning)
  - 2a) god, goddess
  - 2b) godlike one
  - 2c) works or special possessions of God
  - 2d) the (true) God
  - 2e) God

Part of Speech: noun masculine plural

A Related Word by BDB/Strong’s Number: plural of H433

So, as we can see according to “Brown Driver Briggs” Hebrew definitions... The word “*God*” or “*Elohim*” can mean several different things. It can mean rulers and judges, divine ones, Angels, god’s (again, meaning more than one) it can mean godlike, or goddess, or it can mean “the one true God”, But it does not **always** mean “the one true God”.

Whenever we hear the word “*God*”, we must question the context upon how we interpret that word “*God*”. On the American dollar bill is written... “*In God we trust*”. But because of the many pagan statue’s, and Greek mythological architectures, and pagan things that we see even in our halls of justice here in the United States... Many are beginning to ask what “*God*” is it

that we trust in?

Now anyone who is ever done any studying into the history of the formation of the United States already knows, that this nation was built upon our father's biblical foundation, and our father in heaven's biblical commandments, precepts, laws, and even his appointments, but there has always been a great spiritual battle between our father in heaven and his adversary over the hearts of those who live in both Great Britain, and the United States. Prayerful covenants were made between the early leaders of the United States and the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, and let there be no mistake about it my friends... The United States did not grow to be the richest most powerful nation on the face of the earth without the hand of God being upon it, but I bring these things to your attention so that you may know that the word "*God*", does not always pertain to the one true "*God*" of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. And this is true in both Scripture, and in today's culture as well.

Most Christians today have no idea that our father in heaven actually has a "*Divine Council*", and that "*Divine Council*" is noted all throughout the Scriptures. One of the best examples of this is found in Psalms 82 where it is written that "*God has taken his place in the divine Council in the midst of the gods he holds judgment.*" Once again, the original Hebrew word used here is the word "*Elohim*". "*Elohim has taken his place in the divine Council, in the midst of the Elohim he holds judgment.*" The Hebrew word "*Elohim*" is used 2601 times throughout the Scriptures, and so it's an important word found all throughout our modern-day Bibles. Of course, when we read the word "*Elohim*" it is once again translated as "*God*".

Although the Scriptures are very clear, there is only one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, and one creator of heaven and earth, there are also other little "g" gods mentioned throughout the Scripture in places like Psalms 82. Just to get a better understanding of this Divine Council, and these other little "g" god's, also known as "*Elohim*"... Let's read Psalms 82:1:

*Psa 82:1 A Psalm of Asaph. God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:*

Once again, we get a clear description as to how the word "*God*" or "*Elohim*" is used in the Scripture. The first word "*God*" or "*Elohim*" in the Scripture is being used in its singular form. But the second time we see the word "*Elohim*", in this verse, it's being used in its plural form, meaning many. And if we go to the King James numbered version... We can see that both words "*God*" and "*God's*" are both translated from the same word "*Elohim*". And it's important to notice that the English word "*god's*" is translated from the exact same word that the word "*God*" is translated from. It is the word "*Elohim*" and there is no "S" that is ever used at the end of the word "*Elohim*". And so, I want us to understand that before we move forward.

The English translators do two things when they translated the English word "*God*" from the Hebrew word "*Elohim*". The first thing they did, was to capitalize the first word "*God*" in order to help us understand that this time the word "*God*" was being used... it represented the one

true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. But notice the second time that the English translators used the English word “god”... They used a small case “g” to show us that there were indeed other “god’s” in the Bible that were not the one true “God” of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. Another thing that the English translators did when they translated the word “god” from the original Hebrew word “*Elohim*”, was that they added an “S” to it, and translated it as “god’s”, because you see our English word “God” cannot be used in its plural form, unless you add an “S” to the end of the word. But the word “*Elohim*” does not require an “S” at the end of it, in order to be used as plural, meaning many. So just keep these things in mind as we read through Psalms 82 1:8:

*Psa 82:1 A Psalm of Asaph. God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:*

*Psa 82:2 "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah.*

*Psa 82:3 Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.*

*Psa 82:4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."*

*Psa 82:5 They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.*

*Psa 82:6 I said, "You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you;*

*Psa 82:7 nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince."*

*Psa 82:8 Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!*

Clearly what we’re seeing here in Psalms 82 is the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob scolding these little “g” god’s that are part of his Divine Council. These little “g” god’s also known as “*Elohim*”, are not doing their job, and our father in heaven tells them in Psalms 82 verse six “*I said you are gods sons of the most high all of you nevertheless like men you shall die and fall like any Prince*”. This is a direct reflection of who the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob truly is. He rules, not only over mankind, but also over the other “gods” that he has created to function within his Divine Council.

As modern-day Christians today, we often times think of ourselves as the only game in town. We think that mankind is it. But just as we see in Ephesians chapter 6, the apostle Paul tells us that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against rulers, and against authorities, and against cosmic powers over this present darkness, and against spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places.

Not all of our fathers Divine Council is wreaking havoc over the earth. But clearly, we do see through the Scriptures that from time to time these other “*Elohim*” do indeed fall short of the job that they been given. I think that what we can take away from this, is that our father in heaven is indeed in complete control of both heaven and earth. Let’s turn to Luke 1:50-53:

*Luk 1:50 And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.*

*Luk 1:51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of*

*their hearts;*

*Luk 1:52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;*

*Luk 1:53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.*

What's important for us to understand, is that the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob is not always called "*God*" or "*Elohim*". We must remember that our father wrote his name in his Scriptures 6521 times. The Jewish people have covered up the name of our father in heaven with titles like "Hashem", or "Elshadiah", or "Adoni", but these are not the name of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. Our English translated Bibles use the word "*Lord*" in place of the true name of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. There are 6521 times that you will see the word "*Lord*" written in our Bibles. And these my friends are 6521 times that the translators have covered up the very name of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

A "Lord" is a 16<sup>th</sup>-century British land baron. Our father in heaven is not a 16<sup>th</sup>-century British land baron. The Jewish people covered up the name of our father in heaven because they did not want someone to profane his name by not pronouncing it properly or by misspelling it. But the Scriptures clearly tell us, that the way we profaned his name is not by pronouncing it improperly, or misspelling it... The way we profane our father's name is when we refuse to keep his sabbaths, and his commandments, and his laws and precepts. This is how we profane the name of our father in heaven. And the English translators covered up the true name of our father in heaven because they simply didn't know any better. Obviously, no one ever took the time to sit down with a Jewish Rabbi and ask him what the true name of God was. In reality, all they had to do was to look at the original manuscripts, and they would have known what our father's name was, because once again he wrote it in our Scriptures 6521 times.

The British translators used the word "*Lord*" because they were used to bowing down before their British Lord's, and so in their minds, the word "*Lord*" is often used to describe our father in heaven and his only begotten son, because they knew that our father in heaven and his only begotten son deserved to be shown respect, and this was the best word that they could find to show that respect. But this does not negate from the fact that they got it wrong. Think about it my friends. We know all the names of the other pagan God's. They're all written in our Bibles. Moloch, Horace, Astarte, Baal, we've got names for them all... And yet, most modern-day Christians today have no idea what the name of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob even is, even though he wrote it in his Scripture over 6521 times.

And so, as we read through the Scripture, it's important to understand these Hebrew words and what they mean, and how they're used. The word "*Elohim*" or the word "*God*" are titles, or offices if you will. My name is Scott. I am a pastor, a father, a son, a musician, a husband and a grandfather, but these are not my name. These are offices that I hold. And so, it is with words like "*Elohim*" and "*God*". "*Elohim*" and "*God*" are offices that our father in heaven holds, "*Elohim*" and "*God*" are also offices that Angels, and spiritual beings also hold according to the Scripture, and it's important for us to understand these things because if we don't, it's all too

easy to become confused when we hear these words and these titles being used to describe other “Elohim” and/or other “god’s”.

The persecution that are Jewish brothers and sisters lived through during the times of Antiochus Epiphanies will indeed soon return, and I want us to understand that the spiritual warfare that we are now engaged in here on this earth, is not exclusive to just the earth. This spiritual warfare has already been fought within the kingdom of heaven. Let’s turn to Revelation 12:7-12:

*Rev 12:7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back,*

*Rev 12:8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.*

*Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.*

*Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.*

*Rev 12:11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.*

*Rev 12:12 Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”*

This war began when the fallen angels took advantage of their positions of authority, and left their proper dwelling places. Let’s turn to Jude 1:6-8:

*Jud 1:6 And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—*

*Jud 1:7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.*

*Jud 1:8 Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones.*

Notice that in verse eight, people are compared to these fallen Angels. It says “*in like manner... these people also relying on their dreams... Defiled the flesh, reject the authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones.*” This my friends is what Is happening right now, and has been happening for quite some time. Back in 1999 Walter Cronkite who was known as “the Most Trusted Man in America” appeared before the United Nations to accept the “*Norman Cousins Global Governance Award*” from the world Federalist Association. And I want you to hear what he said to the United Nations. He said and I quote

*It seems too many of us, that if we are to avoid the eventual catastrophic world conflict, we must strengthen the United Nations as a first step towards a world government patterned after our own government with a legislature, executive and judiciary, and police to enforce its international laws and keep the peace. To do that of course we Americans will have to yield up some of our sovereignty. That would be a bitter pill. It would take a lot of courage, a lot of faith in the new order.*

Walter Cronkite mockingly, and blasphemously then proclaimed this

*Pat Robertson has written in a book a few years ago, that we should have a world government, but only when the Messiah arrives. He wrote, “literally, any attempt to achieve world order before that time must be the work of the devil.” Well... join me. I’m glad to sit here at the right hand of Satan.*

*Gods & Thrones by Carl Gallups*

And that my friends was back in 1999. And since then we have heard from men like Paul Warburg, Sen. Barry Goldwater, David Rockefeller, Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, Mikael Gorbachev clear back in 1996, Pres. George Bush senior, Pres. Bill Clinton, Pres. George Bush Junior, and even Pope Francis in 2015, telling us about their plans for a one world government. There was a world government summit in Dubai in 2016 that was designed to create a plan for this very purpose. And so, it should not be of any surprise to any of us who have been watching... That the beast of Daniel chapter 7 is quickly on his way to becoming a reality in our time. Daniel chapter 7:25-28:

*Dan 7:25 He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.*

*Dan 7:26 But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end.*

*Dan 7:27 And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.’*

*Dan 7:28 “Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart.”*

Too many modern-day Christians are dumbfounded when we try to speak to them about our father’s divine counsel, or about the war that has been fought in heaven, or about those fallen angels who have left their proper estate and taken advantage of the authority that was given to them. They’re dumbfounded about what is to come because they have been lied to, and told that when things really get bad, that there’s going to be a pre-tribulation rescue that’s going to whisk them away into the sky so that they can go to heaven without persecution. And they believe this

nonsense because they don't believe what their very own Messiah told them in the book of Matthew chapter 24:9-14:

*Mat 24:9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.*

*Mat 24:10 And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.*

*Mat 24:11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.*

*Mat 24:12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.*

*Mat 24:13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved.*

The celebration of the Feast of Dedication Also Known as "Hanukkah" should be a joyous time. And it should be a time of feasting, and a time of thankfulness, but it should also be a time that we consider rededicating our temples back to the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and his only begotten son. During the Feast of Dedication, also known as "Hanukkah" we need to also remember that there is nothing new under the sun. What has been done before, will be done again. The persecution of our father's children is not over yet, and will not be until after the thousand-year millennial reign, when the devil himself and his angels are loosed to once again threaten the children of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob... And is then destroyed once and for all, thrown down into the pit of fire for eternity.

We've got a long way to go before that glorious day comes to pass my friends. And there's a lot of work that needs to be done to expand our Messiah's coming kingdom. And once again we find that the harvest is great, but the workers are few. Too many are relying on their dreams. Too many are defiling the flesh. Too many are rejecting authority. Too many are blaspheming the glorious ones who came to preach the truth of our father's word. We can see it all around us. There is not a day that goes by that it's not splashed all over our television screens and in our news media, and all over the World Wide Web. There is no hiding from it. There is no avoiding it. There is no running from it. The only sanctuary that anyone has, is under the blood of the only begotten son of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, who is Yeshua Hamashiach.

Will there be a rapture? Yes, indeed there will be. But it will not take place until the first resurrection. Daniel 12:1-3:

*Dan 12:1 "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.*

*Dan 12:2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

*Dan 12:3 And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those*

*who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.*

The Scripture is very clear my friends. There will be no rapture of God's people until the dead are raised first. This does not happen until the first resurrection. We will either be in one of two resurrections my friends according to the Scripture. The first resurrection will rule and reign with our Messiah. The second resurrection will be thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:1-15:

*Rev 20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain.*

*Rev 20:2 And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,*

*Rev 20:3 and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.*

*Rev 20:4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

*Rev 20:5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection.*

*Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.*

*Rev 20:7 And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison*

*Rev 20:8 and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea.*

*Rev 20:9 And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them,*

*Rev 20:10 and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

*Rev 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.*

*Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.*

*Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.*

*Rev 20:14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.*

*Rev 20:15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into*

*the lake of fire.*

Our Messiah well informs us, concerning what is to come. We need not guess. We need not believe in a false man-made pre-tribulation rescue. We need not wander around aimlessly, wondering what's going to happen next. We need no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, and by craftiness and deceitful schemes. We are indeed... The sons and daughters of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, who have been empowered through the blood of his only begotten son, to be the B'nai Elohim... The sons of God.

We fear not what man can do to the body, because we know what our father can do to both the body and the soul by casting them into the bottomless pit. Greater is he that is in us, that he who is in this world. And so, as we rededicate our temples during this "Feast of Dedication" also known as "Hanukkah", let us stand on the rock that we have built our houses upon, and let us shine the light on that narrow path that only few will find. Our time is short, but our work is great. The creator of heaven and earth is our shepherd. He makes us lie down in green pastures. He leads us beside still waters. He restores our souls. He leads us in the paths of righteousness for his namesake. And even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we will fear no evil, for he is with us, his rod and his staff they comfort us. And he prepares a table before us in the presence of our enemies, and he anoints our heads with oil, and our cups surely do overflow. And without a doubt, goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we will indeed dwell in the house of our father forever.