

# The History of Hanukkah

## The Feast of Dedication/The Festival of Lights

Antiochus IV Epiphanes becomes king of Syria

Onias III, legitimate high priest was murdered and pseudo-line of priests installed

**Desecration of the Temple in Jerusalem:**  
Sacrifices of the temple forcibly stopped / Greek altar erected in Temple / Pigs slaughtered in Holy of Holies

**Re-Dedication of the Temple**  
1-Day Supply of Oil for temple lights burns for 8 days

Antiochus plunders Jerusalem

The Romans interfere in Antiochus's war with Egypt and prevent his capturing Alexandria

Antiochus DIES during military campaign in Media

175 BC      171 BC      170 BC      169 BC      168 BC      167 BC      166 BC      165 BC      164 BC      Kislev 25      163 BC

The Great Persecution of the Jews begins. Massacres at Jerusalem. The Syrians build the Citadel to guard the temple. Decree issued abolishing Jewish practices and establishing cult of Zeus in Temple. In December, the first pagan sacrifices abominate Jewish altar.

December 25

The priest Mattathias takes refuge in Modin with his five sons (The Maccabees). Mattathias gives the signal for the attack. The Hassidaeans join him. Judas Maccabaeus leads the revolt after Mattathias dies

In December, the temple is purified, giving birth to the Jewish feast of Lights (Hannukah) The Jewish persecution ends. Death of Antiochus IV Epiphanes.

2300 Days

(7 x 360 = 2520)

Actual Desecration (~3 Years)