

# Hanukkah & Jesus

(John 10:22-23)

- Introduction:
1. The aim of a sermon may differ from sermon to sermon.
  2. (2 Timothy 4:2) Reprove, rebuke, exhort.
  3. The aim of this morning's lesson is to inform and help convince you of the power and faithful of God and his promises.
  4. More than likely, very few of us know anything about Hanukkah.
  5. Since we've spent a couple weeks talking about Jesus and prophecy, I thought this lesson would tie in nicely...
    - a. Informing us of a Jewish feast we know little about.
    - b. And seeing the faithfulness of God.

## I. The Prophecy of "Epiphanes"

- A. We have already established the foreknowledge of God by examining several prophecies concerning the arrival, life, and death of Jesus as well as his church.
- B. Daniel introduces us to a man who would be called "Antiochus IV Epiphanes."
  1. The word Epiphanes means "The Manifest One."
  2. It is a claim of deity Antiochus dubbed himself with, even putting it on Greek coinage.
  3. Instead of calling him "Epiphanes," meaning "the Manifest One," the Jews mocked him, calling him "Epimanes," which means "the Mad Man."
- C. (Daniel 8:15-27; 11:3-4,29-31).
  1. Antiochus desecrated the temple in 167 B.C. by setting up an altar to Zeus, instituting temple prostitutes, and offering pigs on the altar.
  2. This outraged the Jews, and a guerrilla war began which drove Antiochus out of Judea.
  3. The Jews then needed to rededicate the temple and miraculously, the days' worth of oil to light the menorah lasted eight days until more oil could be pressed (164 B.C.).
  4. Thus, the feast of Hanukkah, or the Festival of Lights.

## II. The Presence of "Emmanuel"

- A. (Matthew 1:23) While Antiochus claimed to be the manifestation of God, Jesus truly was Emmanuel, "God with us."
- B. (John 10:22-23).
- C. While the Jews were celebrating God's provision of light, ironically, right there in their midst was "the light of the world" (John 3:19-21; John 8:12; John 9:5).
- D. He, too, was the object of prophecy (Isaiah 7:14).

- Conclusion:
1. Whenever I think of Hanukkah, I think of an all-knowing God who knows the end of a thing from the beginning.
  2. And while the Jews in the time of Jesus had every reason to celebrate this festival of lights, I think how much more we should be celebrating the true light of the world.