



# Festival of Lights

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YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE  
WORLD





# DRIVING THROUGH THE BADLANDS





# Festival of Lights

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE  
OF HANNUKAH

# Hanukkah

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The observance of Hanukkah takes place on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of Kislev (Hebrew calendar) and is celebrated for eight nights.

In 2022 Hanukkah takes place from Sunset December 18 until sunset on December 26.

# Historical context

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To understand Hannukah we should understand the Maccabean Revolt and the writings of the Apocrypha.

# The Maccabean Revolt

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A Jewish rebellion led by the Maccabees against the Seleucid Empire and against Hellenistic influence on Jewish life. The main phase of the revolt lasted from 167-160BC.





# Antiochus Epiphanes

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launched a massive campaign of repression against the Jewish religion in 168 BCE. The reason he did so is not entirely clear, but it seems to have been related to the King mistaking an internal conflict among the Jewish priesthood as a full-scale rebellion.



# Judas Maccabeus & The Maccabees

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This repression triggered exactly the revolt that Antiochus IV had feared, with a group of Jewish fighters led by Judas Maccabeus and his family rebelling in 167 BC and seeking independence.



# Apocrypha

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The apocryphal books of Maccabees 1 and 2 are not in the protestant Bible... why?



# FACTS OF THE APOCRYPHA

- Consists of 14 books
- Written during the inter-testamental period
- No prophet was recognized during this 400 year period
- Earliest church fathers did not recognize them



# FACTS OF THE APOCRYPHA

- Earliest list of Old Testament canon dates to 170 AD by Melito of Sardis and does not include Apocrypha
- Neither Jesus or His apostles quoted from or alluded to any of the 14 books

# FACTS OF THE APOCRYPHA

- The books themselves make no claim of being inspired
- The Apocrypha were not canonized until the council of Trent in 1546
- A method to distinguish protestant from Catholic is the adoption of a slightly different Bible



# FACTS OF THE APOCRYPHA

- The Apocrypha contain theological discrepancies such as condoning magic, salvation by works (giving alms purges sins), offering for the dead (giving money for forgiveness of sins of the dead), and more...

# FACTS OF THE APOCRYPHA

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Maccabees and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Esdras contain some good history and errors
- The Apocrypha should not be considered inspired or placed in line with Scripture





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There was a group called the Maccabees and there was a revolt but as a whole the Apocrypha should not be considered canon.



# Is Hanukkah Biblical

WHAT EXACTLY DOES IT  
CELEBRATE?



# Traditional view

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Antiochus ordered an altar to Zeus to be erected in the Temple. He banned circumcision and ordered pigs to be sacrificed at the altar of the temple.





# Shabbat 21b: The William Davidson Talmud

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"For when the Greeks entered the Sanctuary, they defiled all the oils therein, and when the Hasmonean dynasty prevailed against and defeated them, they made search and found only one cruse of oil which lay with the seal of the [kohen gadol](#) (high priest),

## Shabbat 21b: The William Davidson Talmud

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but which contained sufficient [oil] for one day's lighting only; yet a miracle was wrought therein, and they lit [the lamp] therewith for eight days. The following year these [days] were appointed a Festival with [the recital of] Hallel and thanksgiving."



# The Menorah

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**Nes Gadol Haya  
Sham:  
“A Great Miracle  
Happened There.”**





Is a Christian required to  
celebrate Hanukkah?

# John 8:12

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”





# John 10:22-23

<sup>22</sup> Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter.

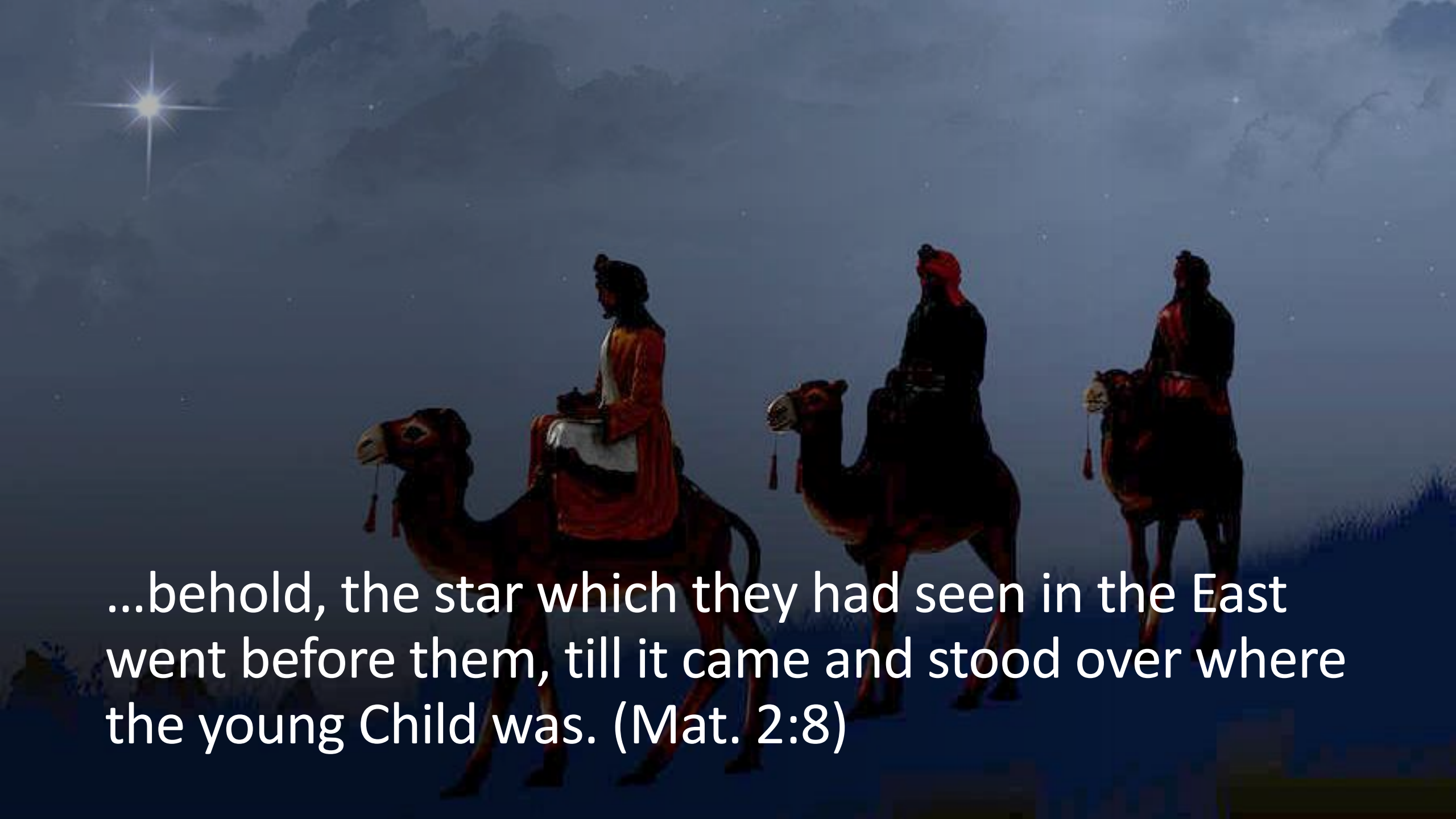
<sup>23</sup> And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch.



# Matthew 5:14

“You are the light of the World. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.”



The image depicts three wise men, or Magi, riding camels across a dark, starry night sky. They are silhouetted against the deep blue and black background, with their forms highlighted by a soft light. The man on the left is wearing a red and white robe. The man in the middle is wearing a dark robe with a red turban. The man on the right is wearing a dark robe with a red sash. A bright, multi-pointed star is visible in the upper left corner, representing the Star of Bethlehem. The overall scene is a classic representation of the Nativity story.

...behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. (Mat. 2:8)





# Isaiah 60:1-7

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A Bright Idea



*a Psalm*  
of Thanksgiving  

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Psalm 30







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