

# What's Your Reflection at Christmastime?

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The Festival of Lights began on Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup> of this year 2019. This festival is known as Chanukah/Hanukkah or Biblically speaking the “Feast of Dedication.”

*John 10:22 - Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem and it was winter.*

*Pictured on the left is the nine branched lampstand, the Menorah. The center candle is referred to as the shammash (Hebrew) or servant candle. The shammash candle is used to light all the other candles. The center candle symbolizes Christ – the Light of the World. (John.*

8:12) The menorah is to be placed where passers-by can see it.

## HANUKKAH BLESSING

Recited all eight nights just prior to lighting the candles of the Menorah.

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik neir (shel) chanukah.*

Translation: "Praised are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to kindle the Hanukkah lights."

I was reading my morning devotions and the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart about being a “Light-bearer (illuminated one).” The very first instance of light referenced in scripture is found in Genesis the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

*Genesis 1: 3-5 Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw the light that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.*

- That word “Light” (Hebrew) ôwr; from H215; means illumination. (Gen 1:3)

The more I Selah on the word “LIGHT”, I am realizing that Christmas is a celebration of Light. The illumination of the Spirit of God is experienced in us and through us as we reach out in love to those around us. As Light-bearers we are LIGHT to those in darkness.



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*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."*

There comes an understanding of the beauty of the Hanukkah miracle, as we read the book of Maccabees in the Apocrypha. Most often we do not even associate Christmas with Hanukkah. Did you know that they occur at almost the same time every year? There are no consciences in the things of God, there is always purpose. Just think...seers (wise men) were guided to the exact location of Jesus' birth by a bright star, full of glorious light!

## **Wise Men from the East**

*Matthew 2:1-2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."*



As worshipers of the Christ of CHRISTmas can we honestly say we are a reflection of His glorious light? God is continually speaking; His Word is going forth as light. Let His Word shed light to your heart of the true meaning of the season, even in the midst of all the hustle and bustle. Take a look around you... there are symbols of light everywhere this time of year. Colorfully lighted Christmas trees, homes & businesses trimmed in lights, menorahs on window sills with lit candles and fire places aglow.

Beloved, has your light grown dim or is it shining bright like that star in Bethlehem long, long ago giving Glory to God in the highest? God has called us out of darkness into His marvelous "LIGHT".

*1Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*



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We are to walk in the (*ôwr*) illumination of His Spirit reaching out with the love of Christ touching others with the peace that only Jesus Christ can give to the hearts of men. Let others see and experience that reflection of light of God in you. Let me encourage you to be a Light-bearer, one illuminated by the Spirit and empowered to bring others to His glorious light.

Christmas peace, Lora (12-22-19)



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