

## **We Are Called to be the Light—**

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As you light the candles of Hanukkah for 8 days, may you contemplate the Light that comes forth. As you place your candles to burn conspicuously for all to see, may the Light that has redeemed us and caused us to long for the reestablishment of His Temple be noticed and draw others to saving faith as we share His Light with others, for we will send you with this word and remind you of His commandment:

*Thus says God the Lord,  
Who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
Who spread out the earth and its offspring,  
Who gives breath to the people on it  
And spirit to those who walk in it,  
“I am the Lord, I have called You in righteousness,  
I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You,  
And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people,  
As a light to the nations, To open blind eyes,  
To bring out prisoners from the dungeon  
And those who dwell in darkness from the prison*

Isaiah 42:5-7

*You shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. ... Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

Acts 1:8 and Matthew 28:19-20

## **Benediction—**

Go now and consider the Light you are given. Stand strong in the One who stood for you. Worship Him always in Spirit and Truth. Long for the return of His Temple and share the Light you have been given with all who have ears to hear.

**All: Amen**

In Him was **Life**  
and that life  
was the **Light**  
of all men.

John 1:4

Marion Bible Fellowship Presents

Festivals of *Light* —

Part 1:

**The Miracle of Hanukkah**

# *Festivals of Light: Hanukkah*

## **Go Light Your World**

Featuring Phil Adey

### **Welcome and Introduction**

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Today we are celebrating Light. The light God created. The Light that was with God in the beginning. The Light that has been the hope of Israel. The Light that was present in the wilderness. The Light that filled the Temple. The Light that still calls us out of darkness, and the Light that will come again to redeem the world. We read in Genesis:

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.*

Genesis 1:1-4

Our celebration today will take us from the creation of light, through God's use of light as a sign of His presence in the Temple (The Miracle of Hanukkah). In our upcoming celebration of the Birth of Messiah, we will celebrate the Light of Jesus' coming. We will be using music in both our Hanukkah and Christmas services to bring to mind the fact throughout time, the created order longs for the coming of the Light for all to be made right. Despite God's beautiful creation, despite His wonderful Law, despite the magnificence of the light of the Temple, the Light of Messiah is the pinnacle of it all. In these services, we want to remember both the restoration of the Temple and the coming of the Savior and anticipate the return of both.

There is a candle in every soul  
Some brightly burning, some dark and cold  
There is a Spirit, who brings fire  
Ignites a candle and makes His home

Carry your candle, run to the darkness  
Seek out the hopeless, confused and torn  
Hold out your candle for all to see it  
Take your candle, and go light your world  
Take your candle, and go light your world

Frustrated brother, see how he's tried to  
Light his own candle some other way  
See now your sister, she's been robbed and lied to  
Still holds a candle without a flame

Carry your candle, run to the darkness  
Seek out the lonely, the tired and worn  
Hold out your candle for all to see it  
Take your candle, and go light your world  
Take your candle, and go light your world

We are a family, who's hearts are blazing  
So let's raise a candle, light up the sky  
Praying to the Father, in the name of Jesus  
Make us a beacon in darkest times

**Carry your candle, run to the darkness  
Seek out the helpless, deceived and poor.  
Hold out your candle for all to see it  
Take your candle, and go light your world  
Take your candle, and go light your world**

## *O Come, O Come Emanuel*

### **Dwelling in Light Eternal—**

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At the end of the age Messiah, who is Light and who as the First Fruits rose from the dead, will “hand over the Kingdom to God and the Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.” Then those who have believed and have walked in the faithfulness of the Messiah Yeshua will dwell in Light Eternal:

*No longer will you have the sun for light by day, nor for brightness will the moon give you light; But you will have the Lord for an everlasting light, and your God for your glory. Your sun will no longer set, nor will your moon wane; for you will have the Lord for an everlasting light, and the days of your mourning will be over.”*

Isaiah 60:19-20

*I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.*

Revelation 21:22-27

Light rightly accompanies each of these two holidays. From our Genesis text above to the appearance of Messiah in the Temple during Hanukkah long ago, we see light being a symbol of the Hope of mankind:

*At that time the Feast of the Dedication [Hanukkah] took place at Jerusalem; it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon. The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, “How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, these testify of Me. But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.”*

John 10:22-30

*Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”*

John 8:12

So, as the lights of Hanukkah shine today and with the anticipation of the lights of Christmas which remind us of His star, let us lift our hearts thankfully and give ourselves even more completely to the One who provides and sustains those who desire to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth and look to Him for salvation and deliverance.

### **Opening Prayer—**

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## Hanukkah

duet by Steve and Ellen Kirkham

### The Promise of Light and Presence—

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As God chose and established the people of Israel, His intent was to dwell among them, most notably in the Temple. Disobedience darkened this plan, evil kings turned the people from God's light, and His presence among them waxed and waned because of it. As it is written:

*Then you shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lamp-stand and its base and its shaft are to be made of ham-mered work; its cups, its bulbs and its flowers shall be of one piece with it. Six branches shall go out from its sides; three branches of the lampstand from its one side and three branches of the lampstand from its other side ... You shall charge the sons of Israel, that they bring you clear oil of beaten olives for the light, to make a lamp burn continually. In the tent of meeting, outside the veil which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall keep it in order from evening to morning before the Lord; it shall be a perpetual statute throughout their generations for the sons of Israel.*

Exodus 25:31-32; 27:20-21

*And word from the Lord was rare in those days, visions were infrequent. It happened at that time as Eli was lying down in his place (now his eyesight had begun to grow dim and he could not see well), and the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord where the ark of God was.*

1 Samuel 3:1-3

*So the crowd answered Him, "We have heard from the Law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" So Jesus said to them, "The Light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the Light, that you may become sons of light."*

John 12:34-36

### Promise of Light for You—

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The promise of Light is available to you. The promise of restoration is for all who repent and believe. Turn to the Light, for your deliverance awaits. The newborn King holds all creation in His hand. Salvation comes to those who put their hope in the Child of Bethlehem. Your enemy is the darkness— even death. Your restoration is the Light—even Messiah, who divides the kingdom of darkness from the Kingdom of Light. His coming and His work make a clear distinction between the people of God and the hosts of the Deceiver.

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the Light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the Light and does not come to the Light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the Light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.*

John 3:16-21

## The One Who is the Light—

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The theme of light ends up where it began: With Messiah, the Light of the World, who is from the foundations of the world and is coming again to redeem the children of Light from the curse of darkness. Knowing the King brings us from darkness to Light, and walking with Him brings us back into God's saving presence. The Apostle John recounts:

*Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."... In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.*

John 8:12 and John 1:1-12

*Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, "Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and give you ten tribes ... because they have forsaken Me, and have worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the sons of Ammon; and they have not walked in My ways, doing what is right in My sight and observing My statutes and My ordinances, as his father David. Nevertheless I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, but I will make him ruler all the days of his life, for the sake of My servant David whom I chose, who observed My commandments and My statutes ... that My servant David may have a lamp always before Me in Jerusalem, the city where I have chosen for Myself to put My name ... then it will be, that if you listen to all that I command you and walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight by observing My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build you an enduring house as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you. Thus I will afflict the descendants of David for this, but not always."*

1 Kings 11:31-39

## The Light Restored—

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In spite of the darkness overshadowing the Land and the people, a hope of restoration remained. Sin had not won, and darkness had not overshadowed the Light. God provided prophecy—a prophecy of restoration. There was a time when the Gentiles temporarily prevailed over a disobedient people of God, but as the people cried out to Him, He was willing to deliver and restore.

Readings and Meditations on Hanukkah:

Devotional Message

## Lighting of the Lights of Hanukkah—

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us by His commandments, and who we honor by kindling the lights of Hanukkah.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who wrought miracles for our fathers in days of old, at this season.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has kept us alive, and has preserved us, and enabled us to reach this season. [Used only on the first night of Hanukkah]

### **Ma'oz Tzur** [Mighty Stronghold]

duet by Steven and Mona Lancaster

"Ma'oz Tzur" is the quintessential Hanukkah melody celebrating God's strength when we face overwhelming odds. Written in the 13th century it originally contained six stanzas. We generally only sing the first one because it contains themes that relate directly to the holiday. The others address additional challenges Jews have faced throughout the years. Although the composer is unknown, the stanzas' first letters form an acrostic that spells "Mordecai," leading many to believe this was the author's first name.

מְעוֹז צוֹר יְשׁוּעָתִי  
לְךָ נִאְחָה לְשִׁבְחֵךָ  
תִּכְוֶן בֵּית תְּפִלָּתִי  
וְשֵׁם תּוֹדָה נִזְבַּח  
לְעֵת תְּכִיֹן מִטְבְּחֵךָ  
מִצָּר הַמִּנְבַּח  
אֶז אֶגְמֹר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר  
חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ.

*Ma'oz tzur yeshu'ati,  
lecha na'eh leshabe'ach,  
tikon beit tefilati,  
vesham todah  
nezabe'ach.  
Le'et tachin matbe'ach  
mitzar hamenabe'ach.  
Az egmor beshir mizmor  
chanukat hamizbe'ach*

Rock of ages, let our song, Praise Your saving power;  
You, amidst our raging foes, Were our sheltering tower.  
Furious they assailed us, But Your arm availed us,  
And Your word, Broke their sword,  
When our own strength failed us.  
You send Your Word, O' righteous Lord,  
To those who seek deliverance.

## Promise of Perpetual Light for Israel—

Hope in the promise of light sustained Israel through its darkest times. When God used great empires in the ancient world as a chastening rod for His people, they held firmly to their belief that God is Light and to the prophetic declaration that their Light would come.

*But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD. I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me. Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy. Though I fall I will rise. Though I dwell in darkness, the LORD is a light for me. I will bear the indignation of the LORD because I have sinned against Him, until He pleads my case and executes justice for me. He will bring me out to the light, and I will see His righteousness. Then my enemy will see, and shame will cover her who said to me, "Where is the LORD your God?" My eyes will look on her: At that time she will be trampled down like mire of the streets. It will be a day for building your walls. On that day will your boundary be extended? It will be a day when they will come to you from Assyria and the cities of Egypt, from Egypt even to the Euphrates, even from sea to sea and mountain to mountain.*

Micah 7:7-12

*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.*

Isaiah 60:1-3