

REVISED AND UPDATED

THE CASE FOR  
**CHANUKAH**  
CHRISTMAS OR CHANUKAH

NO MANS ZONE

THE CASE FOR  
CHANUKAH

**NMZ  
BOOKS**

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Publishing history: Edition 2020.

Cover Design by NO MANS ZONE.

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ISBN-13:978-1478143543

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A publication of

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## DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the memory of my Mother  
Adele Remona Meredith who loved and prized  
historical and cultural books.

## THANK YOU

A very special thank you to Marjorie Meredith for the work she has put into critiquing, reviewing and checking this work. This work is as much the fruit of her labors as it is mine.

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DEDICATION

THANK YOU

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## THE CASE FOR CHANUKAH

*“Hear you the word which YHWH speaks unto you, O House of Yisra’el. Thus says YHWH: Learn not the way of the nations: and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven, for the nations are dismayed at them. For the customs of the peoples are vanity: for it is but a tree which one cuts out of the forest; the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers that it move not. They are like a pillar, in a garden of cucumbers: and speak not. They must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good. There is none like unto You, O YHWH: You are great, and Your Name is great in might” Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 10:1-6.*

### INTRODUCTION

Many Christians are unaware of the fact that YHWH (the Father) has provided them with a scriptural alternative to Christmas. Many more are surprised by the fact that this holiday predates Christmas, and there is evidence to suggest that Yeshua (Jesus) celebrated this holiday. Many also have confused this holiday with Christmas because it occurs in the same month of December and has similar decorations, lights, and activities. This holiday in

## CHRISTMAS OR CHANUKAH

Israel is considered to be the most popular holiday of the Jewish calendar! This holiday is the feast of Chanukah or Hanukkah.

This work is a comparative look at these two holidays. There will be challenging information presented here that will question our positions. I ask only that you pray about these truths and research the Scriptures yourself to see if what I am saying is factual and true. Paul and Silas highly commended the noble Thessalonians for searching out the Scriptures to verify if what they had spoken was true, Maaseh Shlichim (Acts) 17:11, and I commend you now for desiring to do the same. My purpose in this work is to present and enlighten YHWH's position on the issue. Therefore, the Case for Chanukah makes no apology for the facts and conclusions that are put forward in this work.

This work consists of three Chapters. Chapter One is a short survey of the Feasts of Wayiqra (Leviticus) 23 and its related feasts and holidays that Israel observes as a nation. Among these is the national feast of Chanukah or Hanukkah. Chapter Two examines the feast of Chanukah, its origin, and its foundation in history. It will look at Chanukah's significance and practices in relation to Scripture. It also includes a short summary of how this feast is celebrated. Chapter Three examines the holiday of Christmas, its origins, and its foundation in history. It will look at the significance of Christmas and its practices in relationship to Scripture. The Conclusion is by the English Preacher Charles Spurgeon.

## **The Name of the Father**

A note on some essential terms that will be used in this work:

**YHWH:** In Hebrew, the Set-Apart name is composed of four letters יהוה pronounced as Yud ך, Hei ה, Vav ם, Hei ה.

This is referred to as the “Tetragram,” or “Tetragrammaton,” meaning roughly, “The Four Letters.”

How the Tetragram is actually pronounced, there is no general consensus among scholars.

Current research points to one of five related pronunciations for the Set-Apart Name:

- 1) *Yah-way*
- 2) *Yah-hoo-way*
- 3) *Yah-oo-ay*
- 4) *Yah-oo-ah*
- 5) *Yeh-ho-vah*

For this reason, the English version of the Tetragram “YHWH” is employed throughout this work to allow the reader to follow his or her own convictions on the pronunciation of the Sacred Name.

The term LORD or Lord, as it is used in English Bible translations, is a substitute of the Tetragram.

## **Other terms that are used in this Work**

Here are some terms you need to be familiar with that we will be using throughout this Work:

- אֱלֹהִים (Ruach haKodesh): The Set-Apart Spirit (the Holy Spirit).
- יְהוֹשֻׁעַ (Yeshua): The Hebrew Messiah (Jesus).
- Avraham: Abraham.
- Yitzchak: Isaac.
- Yaakov: Jacob.
- Sha'ul: Paul.
- Elohim: This is translated in English Bibles as God.
- Eloah: The singular of Elohim.
- Adonai: This is translated as Sovereign or Master.
- Mashiach: Messiah.
- Kahal: The Hebrew name for congregation/assembly or what Christianity calls the Church.
- Mitzrayim: The Hebrew name for Egypt or, more correctly, an ancient place that was located in Saudi Arabia of which is symbolic of ancient Egypt.
- Yahrushalayim: More accurately called Yerushalem from whence we get the name Jerusalem.
- Yisra'el: Israel. (The Nation, or Land, or person Known as Yaakov depending on the

- context). Yisra'el means overcoming with El.
- Goyim: Nation (as applied to either Yisra'el or the Gentiles depending on the context. Also, an individual not born in Yisra'el).
  - Torah: The first five books of the Old Covenant.
  - TaNaK: The Old Covenant which consists of the Torah, the Neviim (the Prophets) and Ketuvim (the Writings)
  - Brit Chadashah: The Renewed Covenant. Literally the New/Renewed Covenant.
  - Besorah: Gospel or Good News.
  - Melech: King.
  - Malak: Angels or the Sons of YHWH.
  - Malchut haYHWH: The Kingdom of YHWH.
  - Malchut haShamayim: The Kingdom of Heaven.
  - Malchut haElohim: The Kingdom of Elohim.
  - Am ha'aretz: The common folk and the poor of the land.
  - Kohen: Torah Priest.
  - Kohanim: Torah Priests.
  - Sophrim: Scribes.
  - Prushim: Pharisees.
  - Tzadukim: Sadducees.
  - Navi: Prophet.
  - Shlichim: Apostles, Messengers, sent ones from YHWH.
  - Talmidim: Disciples.
  - Chukim: Statutes.

## CHRISTMAS OR CHANUKAH

- Mishpatim: Judgments.
- Edot: Testimonies.
- Amein: Literally, so be it.

THE SCRIPTURE

Note: We employ throughout this Work the original Hebrew titles of the Set-Apart Scriptures (Keetvay haKodesh) instead of their English equivalents because it assists believers to develop their Hebraic vocabulary.

**THE SCRIPTURE (KEETVAY HA-KODESH)**

**Instructions**

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

**Torah**

Beresheet  
Shemoth  
Wayiqra  
Bamidbar  
Devarim

**Prophets**

Joshua  
Judges  
First Samuel  
Second Samuel  
First Kings  
Second Kings  
Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Ezekiel  
Daniel

**Nevim**

Yahoshua  
Shophtim  
Schmuel Alef  
Schmuel Bet  
Melechim Alef  
Melechim Bet  
Yeshayahu  
Yirmeyahu  
Yechezkel  
Daniyel

## CHRISTMAS OR CHANUKAH

Hosea	Hoshea
Joel	Yoel
Amos	Ahmos
Obadiah	Ovadyah
Jonah	Yonah
Mikah	Micha
Nahum	Nachum
Zephaniah	Tzephanyah
Habakkuk	Chabakook
Haggai	Chaggai
Zechariah	Zecharyah
Malaki	Malachi
<b>Ketuvim</b>	<b>Writings</b>
Psalms	Tehillim
Proverbs	Mishle
Job	Iyov
Song of Songs	Shir HaShirim
Ruth	Root
Lamentations	Echah
Ecclesiastes	Koheleth
Esther	Hadasah
Ezra	Ezrah
Nehemiah	Nechemyah
First Chronicles	Divre HaYamim Alef
Second Chronicles	Divre HaYamim Bet
<b>The Renewed Covenant</b>	<b>Brit Chadashah</b>



THE CASE FOR CHANUKAH

Matthew	Mattityahu
Mark	Marqus
Luke	Luka
John	Yochanan
Acts	Maaseh Shlichim
James	Yaakov
Hebrews	Ivrim
First Peter	Kepha Alef
Second Peter	Kepha Bet
First John	Yochanan Alef
Second John	Yochanan Bet
Third John	Yochanan Gimel
Jude	Yahudah
Roman	Romiyah
First Corinthians	Qorintyah Alef
Second Corinthians	Qorintyah Bet
Galatians	Galutyah
Ephesians	Ephsiyah
Philippians	Phylypsiyah
Colossians	Qolesayah
First Thessalonians	Tesloniqyah Alef
Second Thessalonians	Tesloniqyah Bet
Philemon	Phileymon
First Timothy	Timtheous Alef
Second Timothy	Timtheous Bet
Titus	Teitus
Revelation	Giulyana

# 1

## CHAPTER ONE

Israel has many feasts and holidays that they celebrate that are not part of the TEN appointed feasts mandated by YHWH in Wayiqra (Leviticus) 23:1-44 and Bamidbar (Numbers) 10:1-10. One of these optional feasts is called Chanukah or Hanukkah.

Before I explain the difference between Chanukah and Christmas, it will be worthwhile for me to briefly review the ten appointed feasts of YHWH for the benefit of those who are not familiar with these feasts.

## **Mandated Torah feasts**

1. **The Sabbath** (weekly celebrations)
2. **Rosh Chodesh** (new moon monthly celebrations)
3. **Pesach/ Passover** (day of preparation) April (Abib)
4. **Chag HaMatzah/Feast of Unleavened Bread** (Matzah) April (Abib)
5. **Yom HaBirkkurim/Day of First Fruits** (Birkkurim) April (Abib)
6. **Shavuot/Pentecost/Feast of Weeks** (Shavuot) June (Siwan)
7. **Yom Teruah/Day of Blowing** (Yom Teruah) September (Tisri)
8. **Yom Kippur/Day of Atonement** (Yom Kippur) October (Tisri)
9. **Sukkot/Feast of Tabernacles** (Sukkot) October (Tisri)
10. **Shemini Atzerets** (The Eighth Day) October (Tisri)

Here are some short points on why we must celebrate these feasts.

1. The Torah (the first five books of the Old Covenant, which is classified as the Law) calls these feasts, the feasts of YHWH (Wayiqra (Leviticus) 23:2). These feasts were ordained by YHWH and not man.
2. The Torah commands ALL people who identify themselves with the El (Eloah) of Yisra'el to observe these feasts (Wayiqra (Leviticus) 23:4). These feasts are not optional.
3. The Torah commands that these feasts are to be observed FOREVER (Wayiqra (Leviticus) 24:8). Therefore they have not been done away.
4. The Torah commands that these feasts are to be kept SET APART (qodesh) (Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 1:13-14). These feasts are the signs of YHWH's set-apart people.
5. The Torah calls these feasts CELEBRATIONS (Wayiqra (Leviticus) 24:32). These feasts are YHWH's appointed times of harvest and restoration.
6. The Torah calls these feasts REHEARSALS (Shemoth (Exodus) 12:16). These feasts are preparations for the millennium reign.

These feasts are significant because:

- It provides us with our **IDENTITY** as the people of YHWH.
- They are a picture of the **REDEMPTION CYCLE** of YHWH. (His salvation and kingdom plan that is in His Son Yeshua)
- The Feasts are also a picture of the **WORLD TO COME** - the Olam Haba. The Millennial Kingdom, when the Messiah reigns for one thousand years.

For further information on these feasts, please obtain the study; *The Moedim of YHWH Exposition of the Feasts of YHWH*.

Israel today also celebrates many feasts and days of which are not mentioned or mandated by the Torah (the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures).

### **Non-Torah mandated feasts**

Here is a shortlist of those feasts and the months in which they are celebrated:

- 1. Rosh Hashanah.** September/October (Tishri). Jewish Civil New Year. It is celebrated with blowing of the ram's horn (shofar) in synagogues, and special apples dipped in honey are eaten to symbolize a sweet year. The Scriptural New Year is on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Abib (March).

**2. Simchat Torah.** September/October (Tishri). Complete the annual reading of the Torah after reviewing a portion each week. A time of singing and parading around the synagogue.

**3. Hanukkah.** November/December (Kislev).

**4. Tu B Shevat.** End of January/February (Shevat). Jewish earth day, the birthday of trees. A time of giving thanks for trees and eating fruit native to Israel.

**5. Purim.** End of February/March (Adar). Centered on the story of Esther, who helped rescue the Jews of Persia from destruction by the king's evil advisor Haman 356 BCE.

**6. Yom Hashoah.** Holocaust Remembrance Day, April/May (Iyar). Solemnly remember the six million Jewish men, women, and children murdered by the Nazis during World War II.

**7. Yom Hazikaron.** April/May (Iyar). Israeli Memorial Day. Mourn and honor the Israeli soldiers killed in defense of Israel's homeland.

**8. Yom Ha'a tzmaut.** April/May (Iyar). Israeli Independence Day. Commemorates the declaration by David Ben Gurion on May 14 1948 of the birth of a modern Jewish state in formerly British controlled Palestine ending 200 years without a sovereign Jewish country.

**9. Yom Yerushalayim.** April/May (Iyar 28th). Jerusalem day. Commemorates the recapturing of Jerusalem during the six-day war of June 1967. A grand parade is held in Jerusalem to remember this day.

**10. Tish B'Av.** July/August (Av). A day of fasting and mourning the destruction of the first and second Temples and other tragedies of Jewish history associated with this date, the ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av.

A total of ten events, some of which are not feasts, but national or cultural holidays of which are celebrated exclusively in Israel. The main point about these feasts and holidays is that they are not mandated by the Torah; instead, they connected to Jewish people and the country of Israel. They may not be directly sanctioned by the Torah, but never the less is far more of a Scriptural alternative than celebrating many of the feasts or holidays that the Church honors today

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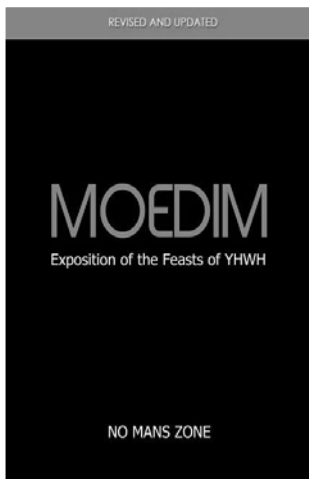
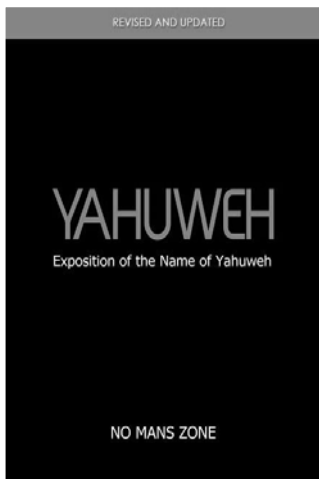
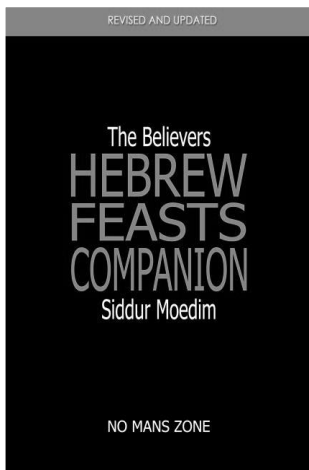
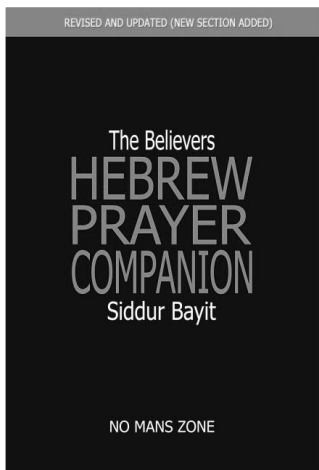
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NMZ Mission: Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 61; Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 31.

NMZ Goal: Mattityahu (Matthew) 10:5-10; Marqus (Mark) 16:15-18.

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# THE CASE FOR CHANUKAH CHRISTMAS OR CHANUKAH

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