

Hanukkah 2016: Prophetic of the United States of America Today

The following text is based on a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph.

***Portions of the original sermon message have been edited to better transcribe the message to text. All verses from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.**

A very, very happy Hanukkah to you.

We're going to be embarking on Hanukkah tonight.

I want to be clear. Your bulletins are correct. Today is going to be a little unique. I am not going to be giving a regular message. I am going to speak for a little bit because I can't help myself. And that's a personal problem, I guess. But today we are going to have a service that is focused on worship.

We are called to be worshippers of the Most High God. And there is no better time than today. And the reason being is because Hanukkah is upon us. What I mean is that we're going to start to celebrate Hanukkah tonight. And what is Hanukkah all about? It's all about the rededication of the temple. The purification. This is a celebration where you purify the temple or your relationship. You think about what Hanukkah is really getting at. It's this restoration of a relationship. It's restoration of worship.

That's this celebration. That's what today needs to be about. So as we get into being worshippers of the Lord, this is the time to seek your heart and to seek the things that you have allowed to come in to defile the temple; things that are unclean. Whether it's covetousness, idolatry, pride or fear, all of these things control us in our lives, and we don't like the nasty truth. We want to be pure and holy before the Lord. Amen.

As we go through today, this is not just about praise. I want to let you in on a little secret. You know a lot of times when we are praising, when we're in the midst of praise and worship, I go to prayer. It's a very powerful atmosphere. While my brothers and sisters are praising the Lord, I am seeking His counsel, and I am asking Him multitudes of things: for blessings, for anointing and for healings. I am going to prayer. It is so powerful.

You know the Scripture talks about how the Lord is enthroned in the praises of Israel. He dwells in the midst of these praises. And you think about it. This is so powerful. It's OK for you to drop out of praising the Lord and to seek Him in prayer. Let your brothers and sisters next to you carry it. It's a beautiful thing.

There are some things on our horizon. We can't afford to not be worshippers. We can't afford to not have the dwelling presence of the Ruach HaKodesh [Holy Spirit] within us. We are going to need to draw upon that strength. We need it today.

I want to share with you a portion from the Hanukkah story. If you're not familiar with the story, it's actually in the Apocrypha. The story is found in first and second Maccabees. That is where it records

what happened or what unfolded, and I want to share a little bit of this with you. This is what we read starting in 1 Maccabees 2:1-7—**In those days Mattathias son of John son of Simeon, a priest of the family of Joarib, moved from Jerusalem and settled in Modein. ² He had five sons, John surnamed Gaddi, ³ Simon called Thassi, ⁴ Judas called Maccabeus, ⁵ Eleazar called Avaran, and Jonathan called Apphus. He saw the blasphemies being committed in Judah and Jerusalem, ⁷ and said, “Alas! Why was I born to see this, the ruin of my people...?”**

I don't know if you can relate to this, but let me tell you something; the story of Maccabees is one of the most prophetic and most relevant stories that exist in the world today for what we are going through right now in this country. This Hanukkah story is like reading today's newspaper. The environment that existed then exists now. Mattathias is looking out and seeing what is happening to Judea and the holy city, and it is killing him inside.

You know, it's kind of a reflection of what Peter says in his second epistle about Lot. Lot tormented his righteous soul day and night, seeing and hearing of the lawless deeds. Lot dwelt in Sodom and Gomorrah which were completely godless and given over to sexual immorality and to perversion, and it tormented him. And here we are. We look at Mattathias, and he is expressing the exact same response. He is tormented.

If you're awake today, and you have eyes to see and ears to hear, you should be looking out at what is happening to this country, and you should be mourning. It should be painful. It is painful for me to see what is happening in this country.

Notice what Mattathias says in verse six—**Why was I born to see this the ruin of my people?** And let me just add this—am I the only person in the room who has asked the Lord this question: Why do I live in this generation? I know I'm not because I don't want to see the things that I'm seeing happening in this nation.

It's too painful. I wanted to be born in the eighteen hundreds, right? I mean this seriously. When there was a church on every corner; where family values were exalted. Marriage was defined between a man and a woman. This is where I want to be.

So here Mattathias says in verse seven—**The ruin of my people, the ruin of the holy city, and live there when it was given over to the enemy, the sanctuary given over to aliens?** Who is behind this invasion of Godlessness and evil? Antiochus Epiphanes. It is the spirit of Antichrist. The spirit of Antichrist is sweeping over the land of Judah, and it is killing Mattathias.

Moving on to 1 Maccabees 2:8-9—**Her temple has become like a person without honor; ⁹her glorious vessels have been carried in to exile.**

You know, when I read this, I find that it is so powerful because here I look out, and I'm watching the glorious vessels that used to exist in this country being taken into exile. The Bible's definition of marriage has been carried into exile. Prayer in schools has been carried into exile. They've kicked the Lord out of the schools. The Ten Commandments, literally the law of the living God, has been thrown into exile. And it is because the spirit of the Antichrist. The spirit of the Antichrist is moving just as it moved in the day of Mattathias in the story of Hanukkah.

1 Maccabees 2:9—Her infants have been killed in her streets.

Think about abortion. We are killing innocent children by the hundreds of thousands. And we're in the millions since this began.

In fact, I got something in the mail last week, but I'll save that for a second.

But he goes on in 1 Maccabees 2:9-11—Her infants have been killed in her streets, her youths by the sword of the foe.¹⁰ What nation has not inherited her palaces and has not seized her spoils?

¹¹ All her adornment has been taken away; no longer free, she has become a slave.

I've actually heard the term used to describe this country—that she was once free, but now she has become a slave. I mean the very same thing. And if you think economically, there are economists actually saying we're the greatest debtor nation in the world.

We were free once. We were once the leading exporter of the world. We're now the world's leading importer. We went from freedom to slave. This is where we're at.

1 Maccabees 2:12-14—And see, our holy place, our beauty, and our glory have been laid waste; the Gentiles have profaned them. ¹³ Why should we live any longer? ¹⁴ Then Mattathias and his sons tore their clothes, put on sackcloth, and mourned greatly.

Pay attention to how they responded to what they saw—Tore their clothes, put on sackcloth. In other words, they went to fasting and prayer.

They want to go before the Lord on their knees to worship. Are we responding in this manner? Or as I mentioned in The Death of America series, are we responding by—woe, we need to prepare by getting guns and gold? These are the things we need to do.

I don't see that response by the Maccabees. I see them petitioning the Most High God, the God of Israel. So continuing on in verse 14—So they tore their clothes they mourned greatly. Verse 15—The king's officers.... Listen to this. This means that Antiochus' men, his officers, were enforcing the apostasy. This is what the spirit of Antichrist does. It will enforce the apostasy.

This takes us back to what I was just going to show you a second ago. I just got this last week from the A.C.L. J. They're awesome; they are defenders of truth, and they just sent this to me last week. In this article, they talk about the fact that this current administration has issued a rule banning States from defunding Planned Parenthood's abortion business.

Do you understand enforcing evil? Enforcing apostasy?

You consider abortion. We are literally enforcing abortion. This is the spirit of Antichrist.

What about this? The Supreme Court rules in favor of same sex marriage nationwide. The White House is lit up in rainbow colors in commemoration of the Supreme Court's ruling to legalize same sex marriage on Friday June 26th [2016]. The court ruled that states cannot ban same sex marriage. The ruling is being enforced.

The lawlessness is being enforced. We are living in the days of Hanukkah. These are the days of Hanukkah. These, I would tell you, are the days of Noah, literally.

The rabbis have some very, very interesting insight into the behavior of the world and society before the Lord reeked havoc and judgment on them. I want to read this to you. This is going to blow your mind—Rabbi Huna said in the name of Rabbi Yosef, “The generation of the Flood was not wiped out until they wrote marriage documents for the union of a man to a male or to an animal.”¹ Do you understand what the rabbi has just said? They said the very last thing that happened for judgment to be unleashed was for marriage documents to be certified between a man and a man, or a woman and a woman. And last year we made that happen. This is unprecedented in this country.

In fact, remember that logo [=] we looked at? It is a logo that people use as defining equality. It's interesting that when this court ruling was made, people were waiting on pins and needles. This symbol [=] was flying on flags everywhere in the streets. People were donning the t-shirts with the symbol. It was everywhere.

Let me take you to Scripture. And this is going to scare you. 2 Samuel 8:1-2—**After this it came to pass that David attacked the Philistines to subdue them. And David took Metheg Ammah from the land of the Philistines. Then he defeated Moab. Forcing them down to the ground, he measured them off with a line. With two lines he measured off those to be put to death, and with one full line those to be kept alive.** What was happening here? David measured off those who were being put to death with two lines. David came and literally marked them for death with two lines.

That's exactly what I mean. You cannot make this stuff up. Here they're waiting for this ruling, which the rabbi say is the last step before God's judgment comes upon the people. It is when they start writing marriage certificates to one to another, male to male and female to female. And this was the very symbol that they flew that day, and they did not realize that it's literally the symbol of death. They're looking down the barrel of judgment.

I cannot express this enough—we are living in the days of Hanukkah, which are the very days, if you will, like that of Noah where the spirit of Antichrist is moving across the land.

We have got to learn how to pray. We've got to learn how to worship. And the first thing we've got to do is purify our hearts. We've got to purify our temples. We need to have purification; a burning off of sin. We need to purify our hearts of all these things that have crept in; all the strings that the world uses to control us. In other words, the enemy controlling us and the strings have got to be cut off today.

This is the day that we need to do it. We do not want to leave this the same. We don't want to go through this mundane life of Christianity saying that it's always the same. You wake up and nothing's different. You've lost your passion!

Think about Ephesus. You read about it in Revelation 2:1-7. They've lost their passion; they lost their first love.

We've got to find our first love. Amen?

OK. I'm just going to finish off this passage in Maccabees, and then we're going to continue with worship. 1 Maccabees 2:16-17—¹⁶ **Many from Israel came to them; and Mattathias and his sons were**

assembled. ¹⁷ Then the king's officers spoke to Mattathias as follows: "You are a leader, honored and great in this town, and supported by sons and brothers. So here Antiochus comes; his men are wowed when they see that Mattathias is revered; he has great honor among his people. Going on to verse 18— ¹⁸ Now be the first to come and do what the king commands, as all the Gentiles and the people of Judah and those that are left in Jerusalem have done. You see what he just said? He's saying— I don't know if you're aware, Mattathias, but your own brothers, and then even the men in Judah, they're all following the king's command. They're following the spirit of Antichrist. They're doing as he has commanded.

Continuing in 1 Maccabees 2:18—Then you and your sons will be numbered among the Friends of the king, and you and your sons will be honored with silver and gold and many gifts. How many times have I told you that Satan will bless you? He will bless you, but it will come at a price. Right? Maybe he's packaged it as a promotion where you're traveling all over the world, and it comes at the expense of your marriage. Whatever the case may be, he will bless you. But it will require you to compromise your faith in the Lord.

Moving on to 1 Maccabees 2:19-22—¹⁹ But Mattathias answered and said in a loud voice: "Even if all the nations that live under the rule of the king obey him, and have chosen to obey his commandments, every one of them abandoning the religion of their ancestors, ²⁰ I and my sons and my brothers will continue to live by the covenant of our ancestors. ²¹ Far be it from us to desert the law and the ordinances. ²² We will not obey the king's words by turning aside from our religion to the right hand or to the left. And this is the last verse will look at. Jumping to 1 Maccabees 2:27—²⁷ Then Mattathias cried out in the town with a loud voice, saying: "Let everyone who is zealous for the law and supports the covenant come out with me!"

You think about what he just said. So I say today: join me. Join us together. We need to bind together. We need to be zealous for the Torah and for the New Covenant that is in the Messiah Yeshua. That's where we need to be right now.

Do you know what's interesting as you continue to read through the story? Do you know that many men join them? But it specifically said the men that joined them were those who were zealous for the Torah. Do you think it's a coincidence that the Torah is going out throughout the world right now, and people are awakening to the reality that it is valid?

And here we are today. Look at us. Every one of us in this room is here for that very reason. Why? Because the spirit of Antichrist has been released. The spirit of Antichrist is moving, and so we need to get into worship. This is where we need to be.

NOTES

1. Genesis Rabbah 26:4-5, Leviticus Rabbah 23:9