

Feast of Dedication

Did you know?

Our forefather Judas Maccabees purified & rededicated the temple during the Greek captivity.

Judas is the Greek word for Judah and Maccabees means the **hammer.**

The day of rededication was set aside to be kept 8 days out of the year starting at the 25th day of Casleu. We call it the Feast of Dedication!

Judas Maccabees was such a great military leader that his family & friends are called after his name!

Judas Maccabees had four brothers: John, Simon, Jonathan and Eleazar. He and his brothers were strong leaders of Israel with different talents.

During the time of the Maccabees, Jews were **Hellenized** or forced to act as the Greeks.

During the Greek activity, it was illegal to keep the Sabbath, be circumcised and our temple was taken over and defiled by the

In this issue:

- Learn about our forefather Judas Maccabees
- Remember the first Feast of Dedication
- White Chocolate & Oreo Truffles man!

White Chocolate and Oreo Truffles

Ingredients

36 Oreo cookies (w/ filling)

8 oz cream cheese at rm temp.

16 oz white chocolate , melted

Instructions

Process Oreo cookies in a food processor until finely ground. If you don't have a food processor, place cookies in a plastic bag & crush finely using a rolling pin.

Reserve 2 tbsp of cookie crumbs for garnishing.

In a medium bowl, mix cream cheese & cookie crumbs until well combined.

Refrigerate mixture for about an hour, then shape into 1-in balls & place on a baking sheet lined w/ parchment paper.

Freeze until firm, about one hour (freezing will make the balls firm & easier to dip into the chocolate).

Using two forks, dip & coat balls with melted white chocolate & place on parchment paper.

Sprinkle with reserved cookie crumbs.

Place in the fridge for 10 minutes,

until chocolate hardens.

Keep in the refrigerator & serve chilled,

so the chocolate won't melt.

Truffles will keep for up to 4 days in an airtight container.



... It's a Feast Day, but remember ...everything in moderation!

Remembering the First ...



1 Macc 4:38-61 KJV

As Judas bounded up the steps toward the temple, his heart raced. He didn't know what to expect. All of his life he had been taught how special and holy the temple was. He had learned all the stories of his forefathers who had died for coming into the temple while unclean and the priests who had sacrificed in the wrong way and had paid with their lives.

As he came up to the temple gates, he saw that they had been set on fire and burned. He pulled the crispy gate toward him, and as parts of the gate crumbled in his hand, his anger boiled! *The Greeks would have to pay for their disrespect towards God's temple; may it be so!*

There was little difference between the inside of the temple's court and outside of the charred gates. In both places there were bushes growing, and birds chirping. He heard the scurrying feet of an unseen animal, and his mouth dropped. The beautiful courtyard that before had shown like a jewel, and been constantly maintained, was overrun by dirt, animals and shrubs. *Oh, how low we had fallen!*

The very alter that burned away the sins of God's people was covered in dried blood with a swine's head at its foet. Flies circled the carcass, and Judas Maccabees groaned remembering the words of his father, Mattathias: "Now therefore, my sons, be ye zealous for the law, and give your lives for the covenant of your fathers." *How many laws had been broken in the polluting of the temple, the gate and the court? But it was not given to the Greeks to protect and consecrate such things, only unto Israel. Most High had not dealt so with any other nation. There was only one possible response: to rededicate the temple.*

By now his men were cautiously entering what they, too, had been taught to be a sacred place. Previously, they had not walked as freely within the court's walls as they did now, but all there knew that the temple and its grounds had never been in such a disarray.

Turning to see his troops shocked, as if they had been once more outnumbered and yet victorious, Judas Maccabees spoke: "As my father so charged me upon his deathbed, so we must remain zealous for the laws and thus the repair of this, the Most High's temple. Prepare yourselves to clean this place and rebuild the gates and the alter. Let the musicians know, and make ready what food and strong drink is at hand. For we will rebuild Most High's temple, and give thanksgiving and praise for its rededication on the 25th day of Casleu!



Bethink yourselves:

Was this what our forefather Judas Maccabees saw when he entered the polluted courtyard of the temple?

How would you have felt to see something sacred in such bad shape?

Is this how Most High views us when we sin?

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwelleth in you.

1 Cor. 3:16



How can we rededicate our temples to Most High?



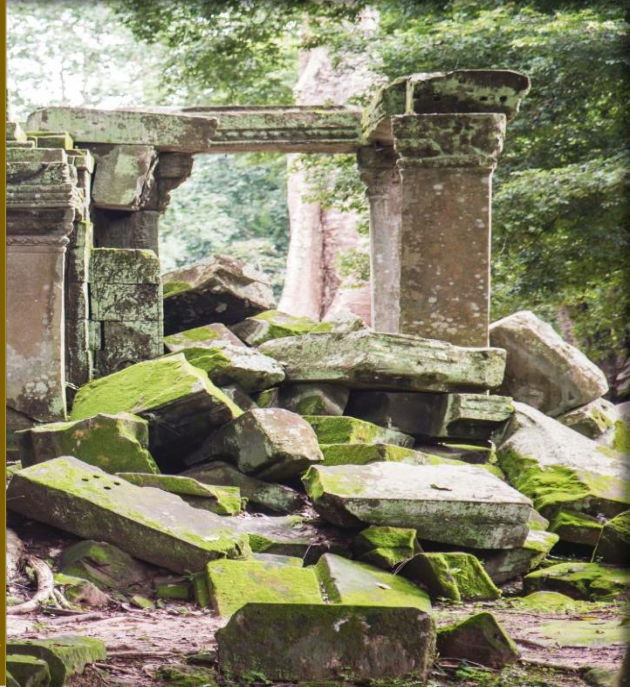
Keep the fun going...

Connect-the-dots from 1 to 26 to create a symbol of our forefather, Judas Maccabees. Make sure you color it!



What did we learn?

Where can we find the rededication of the temple in the Apocrypha?
Who is Judas Maccabees? Why is his name mentioned with the Feast of Dedication?
What does the word Hellenize mean?
How can we rededicate the temple today?



1 Macc 4:38-61/Military Commander that defeated Greek troops, purified and rededicated the temple during the Greek captivity./To make Greek in form or character/Pray, eat healthy/clean foods, minimize the media, stop sinning, various answers accepted.