

Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun
Suedat Shelishit, Parshat Vayeshev 5762

Why Hanukkah?

By Rabbi Joshua Cypess

I) Starting Questions

- A) Why do we have the holiday if its not written about in the Bible?
- B) Why is it on the 25th of Kislev?
- C) Why the Menorah?

II) Jewish History in the Bible

<i>Plot</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Book(s) in Bible</i>
Exodus from Egypt	1313 - 1273 BCE	Torah
Conquest of Israel & Establishment of Kingdom	1273 - 826 BCE	Joshua, Judges, Samuel
Sins that lead to Destruction of First Temple & Exile	826 - 423 BCE	Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah
During the First Exile	423 - 353 BCE	Ezekiel, Lamentations, Esther, Daniel
The end of First Exile & Rebuilding of the Second Temple	348 BCE	Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Chronicles

III) The Bible

- A) The Canon vs. Apocrypha
- B) Prophecy

IV) The Second Temple Period

- A) Time of renewed hope
- B) Prophecies of Haggai & Zechariah