

Ambassadors of the Almighty: Hashmonah

*And they went from Mithcah, and pitched in
Hashmonah, Numbers 33:29.*

By the time the Children of Israel arrived at *Hashmonah*, they had adjusted to the nomadic life of the desert. What a welcomed sign it must have been to them, however, when they saw the cloud adjusting its course to the north again.

Writing about the meaning to be gained from this camp-lesson, Thomas Bromley (1629-1691) in his book titled: *The JOURNEYS of the Children of Israel, as in their Names and Historical Passages, they Comprise The Great and Gradual Work of Regeneration*, explained: “*Hashmonah* signifies, hasty numbering, chaffy-numbering... This is a Station that the Souls in the Wilderness, cannot but sometimes pitch in...[Those who] have followed *Yahweh* in the more interior Ways of deep Self-denial, have known something of this State.”¹²⁷

Certainly, it is a major temptation, for some to grab the reins from *Yahweh* again. “Oh, good; let's number our warriors! We will go in this time!” Entering their promised land had never been far from their minds. Thus, they hastily numbered their men.

While they may have recently enjoyed the “sweetness” of *Mithcah*, now this camp was astir with enthusiasm, vies for power, and a military plan. “Hasty numbering with chaffing” was the result. Have you ever been tempted to run ahead of *Yahweh* in a decision, that turned out to be too “hasty”? If so, you have faced the temptation Israel experienced at *Hashmonah*.

This “chaffing” in the Hebrew root, suggested the natural kind of bantering witnessed among warriors as they “buff” their egos for the challenge. The people would need to confess and be cleansed of this “heady” behavior, before moving north.

MESSAGE IN THE CAMP NAME

While the ordinal number of this camp means “repentance and forgiveness,”¹²⁸ in the *Septuagint*, the name, *Hashmonah*, signifies Israel’s role as “ambassadors” of *Yahweh*.¹²⁹ Israel was learning to trust and obey, as the saints in the End will have learned. They were learning to intercede, as the saints in the End will have learned; and, they were about to learn how to be Heaven’s ambassadors, just as we must learn before the End.

An ambassador is “a diplomatic official of the highest rank, sent by one sovereign of state to another as its resident representative.”¹³⁰

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Moses and Aaron had certainly served well as ambassadors of the Almighty. Yet, this role was not given exclusively to the leadership. Every person, among the Children of Israel, was called to serve as an ambassador, carrying the Light of *Torah* and the knowledge of *Yahweh* to the heathen. Why are there not recorded examples of them doing it?

Sing unto (Yahweh)... Declare His Glory among the heathen; His marvelous Works among all nations. For great is (Yahweh), and greatly to be praised: He also is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the people are idols; but (Yahweh) made the heavens, 1 Chronicles 16:23-26.

This same duty and calling is appointed to *Yahweh*’s End-time people. The Heavenly Father calls us to “make known His deeds among the people” (1 Chronicles 16:8), and to “magnify His Law and make it

honorable” (Isaiah 42:21). This has been the job description of the sons and daughters of *Yahweh* in every Age. Paul called himself “an ambassador in bonds,” Ephesians 6:20. As such, he admonishes us to also “speak boldly” for the true YAH.

In the *Strong’s Concordance*, the word, *Hashmonah*, means “fertile.” It comes from a root word, *chasman*, meaning, “firm, capacious (ample) in resources, and wealthy.” These are accurate, descriptive words to portray *Yahweh’s* loyal representatives. They, too, are “firm in their faith,” and “broad in their understanding,” which is “rich in Heaven’s resources.” Truly, no calling on Earth is as blessed as the ambassadorship for the Almighty.

Hashmonah, or *Chashmonah*, meaning “ambassador,” and “armed,”¹³¹ was a camp whose name also signifies “fatness, or fruitfulness.”¹³² These multiple meanings meld into one: namely, witnessing for *Yahweh*.

From the beginning of sin, man has been mixing good with evil. Like King Solomon (1 Kings 11), Israel claimed to love YAH, but they found it so easy to serve the gods of the heathen. Israel’s idolatrous “chaffing” could not mix with the Heavenly calling to “ambassadorship.” Before they could fully serve *Yahweh*, they were in need of “repentance” and “forgiveness.”

Hashmonah offers a special mission to all who are called to be sons and daughters of Yahweh. It reminds us that we are called to a holy ambassadorship.

In every age, there has been a remnant who would not bow to Baal. In ancient Israel this remnant included: Calab and his family, Joshua and his family, Moses and his family, Aaron and his family, Miriam, her husband, Hur, and their family. Surely, there were others in the camp equally devoted to *Yahweh*, although they are unnamed.

In a later era, another faithful Israelite family would arise as true ambassadors, whose service to *Yahweh* fittingly began at *Hashmonah*. Then too, out of repentance and forgiveness, the Hebrew meaning of

number 25, some would come forth courageous and armed to defend the YAH of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

HASHMONAH AND THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

Hashmonah offers a special mission to all who are called to be the sons and daughters of *Yahweh*. It reminds us that we are set apart for a holy ambassadorship. As if to underscore the timeless message of this twenty-fifth campsite, history has shown that the call to warfare in the cause of *El* reached centuries beyond the Canaan journey. Ambassadorship spanned the centuries in this place. Obviously, ancient Israel sensed *Yahweh's* calling to step into this blessed role. We unequivocally know this because of the experiential name given to this site. Notably, all persons and locations in Scripture, whether good or bad, were named for their mission or history of performance.

The details of Israel's first ambassadorship may be a bit sketchy, but centuries later, a well-known group of *Hashmonean* ambassadors brought vindication and glory to the holy Name of *Yahweh*.

Around the 1st and 2nd centuries B.C., long after Israel had taken possession of their promised land, the "Maccabean" family arose to prominence in *Hashmonah* (or *Hasmoneah*), located on the edge of Moab.

Commonly known as the Maccabees, this family became "ambassadors" for the *El* of Jacob during a "time of tribulation" that will be repeated in the near future. That time of trouble was brought on by a powerful, biblical entity called "the Abomination that Makes Desolate," (Daniel 11:31; Matthew 24:15). *Yahweh's* victory, through these *Hashmonean* "Rebels," is now best-known as the "*Hanukkah* Story."

*Through the
(Maccabean) story
of victory... we find
insights and
encouragement for
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"Hashmonah"
stand against the
soon-coming beast.*

Living in the region where Israel had once made its twenty-fifth camp in the wilderness, this famous family of “*Chashmonah*” was of the priestly lineage. Mattathias, the family patriarch, was a faithful priest of *Yahweh*. He stood for *YAH* against the “beast” power of his day. And through the courage displayed by him and his sons, brought victory, “not by might, nor by power, but by (*Yahweh*’s) Spirit” (Zechariah 4:5). In their bravery we may glean insights and encouragement for our own “*Hashmonah*” stand against the soon-coming beast power.

Lest we get ahead of our story, let’s start with the establishment of the Abomination of Desolation in the time of the Maccabean Revolt.



Antiochus IV Epiphanes (who reigned from 175-164 BC), was the 8th ruler of the Seleucid Empire. He was violently bitter against the Jews, and he made a furious and determined effort to exterminate them and their worship of *Yahweh*. His title: Epiphanes (which he gave himself) means, “manifest god.” In other words, Antiochus claimed to be *YAH* on earth. This is an essential ingredient in forming the

Abomination of Desolation, in any era, as foretold by the prophet Daniel.

*And arms (military might) shall stand on his part (side), and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate. And such as do wickedly against the covenant (Torah) shall he corrupt by flatteries; but the people that do know their *YAH* shall be strong and do exploits. And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil (tribulation), many days. . . And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed. And the king (head of the Abomination of*

Desolation Power) shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the YAH of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished. . . , Daniel 11:31-36.

Antiochus took Jerusalem in the 2nd century B.C., and held the Jews under his rule. He was the first “YAH-man” to set up the Abomination of Desolation, offering us an historical view of how this prophecy manifested in a prior application.

Called “the Abomination,” it flies allegiance to Satan in the Face of our Holy and All-powerful YAH. Scripture teaches that an “abomination” makes “desolate,” because it desolates all who comply.

But Antiochus didn’t set up the dreaded “Abomination that Makes Desolate” on the first day! Initially, he changed things only slightly. He established the Abomination gradually, acclimatizing Israel and preparing them to ultimately accept it, compromise-by-tiny compromise, all in the name of “peaceful unity.”

Identifying the phases of the prior beast’s rise will aid us in recognizing its advances today. For the same incremental compromises employed by Antiochus, are preparing *Yahweh’s* people to accept the Abomination of Desolation in the near future.



One of the first preparations for the Abomination in the second century B.C., was Antiochus’ coupe against the Jewish clergy. He deposed Jason, the high priest in Jerusalem. Jason’s Greek-appointed replacement was high priest Menelaus. It appeared to the unwary worshippers as if nothing had changed. Services went on uninterrupted. But, for those with eyes to see, Menelaus’ leadership was tainted by his Greek training.

The same infiltration of spiritual leadership is happening today. Quickly, the services have become “different,” -corrupted with the Greek philosophies and, Jesuit agenda, while the teachings of *Torah* became more philosophical, psychological, cultural, or absent altogether.



Having successfully installed his Greek-trained high priest into Jerusalem, Antiochus next placed sports arenas and gaming centers in Jewish cities, near their synagogues.

Entertainment has also been employed to prepare modern young people for the Abomination. Television and video games now divert the minds and hearts of teenagers, making the things of *Yahweh*

appear dull and boring. This is the same effect Antiochus achieved in the Israelite young people, by enticing them to participate in the Greek sports.

As time progressed, the youths found themselves spending more time with sports and less time with *Torah*. Today we would say, more time with TV and gaming systems. Similarly, through the lure of entertainment, the hearts of the youth are turned from *Yahweh*, now as then! The love of pagan pass-times, seemingly innocent at first, was the next step in spiritually weakening Israel, preparing them to worship the global “beast,” of that day. Greece, with its political control, religious rule, and social appeal governed the world, conquering in the guise of peace.

Is it any different today? Don't most Christian young people prefer a game of basketball to a Bible study? Or an evening of X-box games to a vespers service?

Finally, the Greeks began taking over the educational system. Where Jewish boys had formerly attended *Torah* schools and learned in Scripture-centered ways, the Greeks stated that this left students handicapped educationally and ill-prepared to function in the “real”



world. Under the guise of improving Israel's economic potential, Greek schools and philosophical centers were placed in the towns of Israel. As one might suspect, Jewish families were encouraged to send their boys to these schools. After all, they wanted their sons to fit in with the best. In the dazzle of promised prosperity, the threat against their worship of *Yahweh* went unnoticed. Parents believed that sending their sons to the Greek schools was an easy way to ensure their success in business.¹³²

In these classrooms, however, the young Hebrews learned that there is no "ultimate truth." Situation-ethics and human philosophy replaced the *Torah*. This was the last step in preparing Israel for false worship when the Abomination of Desolation would be fully set up. Brotherhood and tolerance became of higher value than adherence to the Word of *Yahweh*.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE ABOMINATION - TODAY

Lest we become too complacent, sitting back and relegating this *Hashmonean* story to nothing more than a tidbit of trivia from ancient history, seriously consider that these exact same elements are already in place today. These same preparatory steps have been taken to insure that the end-time, professing people of *Yahweh* will serve the Beast, as easily as did most Jews before 165 B.C. Remember, whom you serve is whom you worship (See Matthew 4:10 and 14 other Scriptures where "serve" and "worship" go together.)

To demonstrate this "creeping compromise" of the Abomination, consider the preparatory ingredients in the time of Greece as they find their parallel in today's changing world.

First, we had a self-proclaimed “god-man.” Are there not such men today? One is called the Pope. Others of the world’s religions have a personage of “divine authority,” whether as a prophet or a ruler requiring unquestioning allegiance. Antiochus Epiphanes, who was a self-proclaimed “god,”-the god on earth, is another example of a person usurping the Sovereignty of *Yahweh*.

As Pope Pius V explained, “*The Pope and God are the same, so he has all power in Heaven and earth,*”¹³³

This sentiment was echoed by Pope Leo XIII, who said about the role of the Pope, “*We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty,*”¹³⁴

The *New York Catechism* stated blatantly:

The Pope takes the place of Jesus Christ on earth... By divine right the Pope has supreme and full power in faith, in morals over each and every pastor and his flock. He is the true vicar, the head of the entire church, the father and teacher of all Christians. He is the infallible ruler, the founder of dogmas, the author of and the judge of councils; the universal ruler of truth, the arbiter of the world, the supreme judge of heaven and earth, the judge of all, being judged by no one, God himself on earth (emphasis added).

Having identified a modern “Antiochus” figure, who, likewise, claims to be “god,” we will next explore whether there is evidence of an infiltration of the church clergy and doctrines, as there was in ancient Israel. Has the leadership of so-called Protestant religions come under the training of the papacy? And if so, do these leaders use this training to promote papal doctrines, setting aside the fundamental beliefs of their protestant foundation? Has the education system, today, been taken over by promoters of papal doctrine? Do these preparatory elements also exist today? Yes. Consider the accomplishments of the Jesuit Order in the Counter-Reformation.

When Reformer Martin Luther nailed his famous “95 Theses” to the church door in Wittenburg, in 1517, the Protestant Reformation was born. The term “Protestant” had to do with the primary purpose of protesting against papal unrighteousness. Thus, at its inception, the

Protestant movement was not ecumenically joined with the Papacy. Nor was it in league with papal doctrine, as it is now through the World Council of Churches. To be a unified body with the papal power denies the very meaning of the name Protestant. Great was the schism between the Papacy and Protestant Christianity, born of the Reformation.¹³⁵

But, in an almost instantaneous reaction to the inception of the Reformation, the Jesuit Order was founded (1541), by Ignatius Loyola. The intent of the Jesuit order was singular: halt and exterminate the Reformation. The oath they took to perform this task was extreme. The Jesuits' terrible oath became a matter of public record, when exposed in 1917 before the United States Congress. It then became part of Congressional Record. The following is an excerpt from the Jesuits' extreme oath, preceded by the excerpted statements of his superior:



Superior states: My son, heretofore you have been taught to act the dissembler: among Roman Catholics to be a Roman Catholic and to be a spy even among your own brethren; to believe no man, to trust no man. **Among the Reformers, to be a Reformer... among other Protestants, generally to be a Protestant;** and obtaining their confidence, to **seek even to preach from their pulpits,** and to denounce with all the vehemence in your nature our Holy Religion and the Pope; and even to descend so low as to become a Jew among Jews, that you might be enabled to gather together all information for the benefit of your Order as a faithful soldier of the Pope. You have been taught... to ingratiate yourself into the confidence of the family circle of Protestants and heretics of every class and character...

I... do... swear that His Holiness, the Pope, is Christ's Vice-Regent and is the true and only head of the Catholic or Universal Church throughout the earth... Therefore to the utmost of my power I will defend this doctrine and His Holiness's right and custom against all usurpers of the heretical or Protestant authority whatever... I do further declare

the doctrine of the Churches of England and Scotland of the Calvinists, Huguenots, and others of the name of Protestants... to be damnable... I am dispensed with to assume any religion heretical for the propagation of the Mother Church's interest... I do further promise and declare that I will, when opportunity presents, make and wage relentless war, secretly and openly, against all heretics, Protestants... That when the same cannot be done openly I will secretly use the poisonous cup, the strangulation cord, the steel of the poniard, or the leaden bullet, regardless of the honour, rank, dignity or authority of the persons...¹³⁶

To this appalling end, the Jesuits work, stopping at nothing to advance their sworn cause. This work came to be known as the "Counter Reformation." And no venue was beneath the dedicated Jesuits. To effectively change the way people thought, preparing them to agree with the papal "god-man," they began actively educating people at all levels and at every opportunity. As Shaun Willcock explained:

The Jesuits aim to stamp out Protestantism, politically and religiously.

... **Through education, they (the Jesuits) aimed to control the future leaders of society.** They particularly sought to gain control of the education of the children of political leaders and other influential people in the upper classes... Through foreign missions, they sought to convert the world to Roman Catholicism. **Through preaching, they championed papal authority and other Roman Catholic doctrines,** thereby strengthening the Papacy at a time when it was reeling from the devastating effects of the Reformation...

Elder Willcock went on to explain how the Jesuits specifically effected and counted coup upon the leadership of the Protestant churches.

In working to stamp out Protestantism, the Jesuits used two primary tactics. Politically, once they exercised influence over the ruler, or rulers, of a country, they drove them to persecute the Protestants; and religiously, **they actually infil-**

trated the Protestant churches and denominations, and worked to undermine them from within¹³⁷

THE RESULTS OF JESUIT INFILTRATION

In order to fully examine the results of the Jesuit infiltration of Protestantism, we would need to examine the original doctrines of each denomination. We would then need to carefully document how these original teachings have been changed to embrace the doctrines of the Papacy, which these Protestant churches were founded to protest. However,

*The Abomination
of Desolation
is still at work.*

since there are over 30,000 Protestant denominations, the idea of tracking the doctrinal changes in each is overwhelming, and off course for the purpose of this book. Thus, rather than addressing each of them, we will ask a few pertinent questions, which demonstrate the effects of Jesuit infiltration. Each reader may then honestly answer whether these questions apply in his or her specific denomination of choice. These questions are found in Bill Hughes' book, *The Enemy Unmasked*:¹³⁸

- Is your church still protesting against the papacy?
- Does your church still teach that the papacy is the anti-christ, or is it something that your church once taught, but now shies away from because it is not “politically correct?”
- Does your church engage in celebration style church services that are more contemporary with the times, such as having more “upbeat” music? This was part of the papacy's plan at Vatican II in taking over all the churches.
- Is your church forgetting their historic teachings and becoming more modern, casting away the old truths as relics of the past?
- Are your church periodicals finding more good things to say about the papacy, even considering the Vatican leaders to be “fine Christian people”?

- Is your church willing to join the ecumenical movement, even if it means sacrificing some basic teachings or principles that the church once believed?¹³⁸

The Bible refers to the true Body of Messiah as a pure woman, the Lamb's Bride (Revelation 19:7-8). As the true "Church" is represented by a pure woman, it is not surprising that the paganized and false church is also symbolized as a woman – a prostitute, indicted for committing spiritual adultery by mingling the sacred with the profane (Revelation 17:1-5).



Her priests have violated My Law, and have profaned Mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they showed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from My Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain, Ezekiel 22:26-27.

But, the Mother Church, also known as the whore of Babylon, does not stand alone. She has "daughters." They are those contented churches who have gradually become comfortable with the "tolerance teaching" of the Counter Reformation. As such, they no longer protest the idolatrous teachings of papal Rome. They have become eccumenicalized, and now espouse the same theology as the original "mother."

...Those harlot daughters include every Protestant denomination today that has forsaken their message.... Revelation 17... reveals the control of the papacy's Jesuits over the leaders of our world, over the wealthy of the earth, and over the churches of today.¹³⁹

The abundance of harlot daughters, throughout what was once true Protestantism, is in itself one of the greatest demonstrations of the effectiveness of the Jesuit Counter-Reformation.

INDOCTRINATION THROUGH ENTERTAINMENT

We have shown that the papal power has followed the pattern of the ancient Greeks in taking over the clergy and education systems in order to prepare people to accept their false system of worship. Let us now examine whether the Papacy, through the Jesuit Order, has also worked to turn hearts from *Yahweh* through entertainment, as did the Greeks long ago.

Actually, like the Greeks, who created the gaming arenas with the intent of turning the hearts of the youth from *Yahweh* to worldly pursuits, there is ample evidence to show that the Catholic Church created the Hollywood film industry, taking over the film media almost at its inception.

In 1920, Father Daniel J. Stack was appointed pastor. Like those who came before him, Father Stack was faced with the problem of accommodating a growing parish on a minimal budget. But unlike his predecessors, Fr. Stack had a new, deep-pocketed resource to tap into. By the time he arrived as pastor, Blessed Sacrament had become a popular

location for movie studios. Parishioners were often used as extras and Father Stack himself was frequently used as a technical advisor to evaluate the religious accuracy of a scene. So central was Blessed Sacrament in the film community that the first professional organization for screen writers and actors - the precursor to the Writers' and Screen Actors' Guilds - was formed at his church.

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As a result of this close community relationship, studios such as Universal, Keystone, Lasky, the Francis Ford Company, and Christie Studios readily agreed to help Blessed Sacrament in any of its fundraising efforts. They provided actors and equipment free of charge for church sponsored events, such as theatrical productions or festivals.¹⁴⁰

The film industry was even regulated by the Catholic Church under the oversight of the National Legion of Decency, originally called the Catholic Legion of Decency.¹⁴¹

THE MACCABEANS OF *HASHMONAH*

Having demonstrated that the same conditions and elements exist today as were present preparatory for the Abomination of Desolation in 167 B.C., we are ready to continue the story of the faithful family of *Hashmonah* with, perhaps, greater enlightenment for parallels today.

Mattathias, the patriarch of the famous family from *Hashmonah*, had successfully protected his sons from the encroachment of Greek indoctrination. He had established his home outside of the city, so the Greek forms of entertainment were not a lure to his family. Mattathias also home-schooled his boys, educating them in the *Torah*, and keeping them away from Greek philosophies. Finally, Mattathias had also kept the worship of *Yahweh* pure in his home and region. He was a faithful priest of *Yahweh*. Through his godly influence and teachings, his household and town were nourished on the unadulterated Word of Truth. Thus, Mattathias, his boys, and the town of *Hashmonah* were saved from the “heart-apostasy” which had already corrupted the Jews in Jerusalem.

By the time the idolatrous statue of Zeus, the Abomination of Desolation, was set up, in the Jewish temple at Jerusalem, most had already chosen a side. Those who had participated in the Greek indoctrinations and pleasurable compromises had already bowed their hearts to the “beast,” long before they bowed the knee. But, the faithful from *Hashmonah* had remained pure in heart through the lesser

tests; thus, they were prepared to be true against the Abomination, even under the treat of death.

In 167 B.C., Mattathias and his five sons, Jochanan, Simeon, Eleazar, Jonathan, and Judah, took a trip to Jerusalem. With spiritual perception unclouded by years of compromise, Mattathias was distressed to see the beautiful Temple as it then stood.

The gold that had once adorned the façade was stripped away. The beautiful fabrics that had once adorned the Temple doorways had been torn off and sold. Even the holy vessels had been used for the worship of Greek gods and had been thrown around in disrespect. In fitting symbology, the fire of the seven branched candlesticks had gone out, showing loss of the continual burning of Truth. The altar of burnt sacrifice had been desecrated with pig offerings. Finally, and worst of all, was the erection of the Abomination of Desolation. In the Holy Place, an idol of Zeus now stood.



Yet, more shocking than all that, was the sight which confronted the pure *Hashmonean's* gaze. There on the streets of their revered city was demonstrated an appalling level of apathy and tolerance of evil. Everywhere throughout the city they met weariness, weakness, and apathy. Mattathias' heart ached.

His reaction to this apostasy is well recorded in the annals of history. He hung his head in shame and cried, "My people have forsaken *Yahweh!*" Perhaps some listening Jews were surprised to hear his pronouncement. "Wait a minute," they might have thought, "WE didn't set up that statue to Zeus. The Greeks did it without our consent!"

But, actually Mattathias' spiritual perception was absolutely right. The Temple could not have been desecrated in this manner, nor the Abomination of Desolation set up, had *Yahweh's* people been fully alert and loyal to Heaven. Slowly creeping upon them, it was their idolatrous compromises in tolerance of evil that had caused the favor and protection of *Yahweh* to be withdrawn.



Suddenly, down the street galloped a Greek official determined to force the Jews to participate in the corrupt worship.

“You there! Priest,” the Greek shouted when he spotted Mattathias. A crowd began to gather.

“You will be the first to sacrifice to the great god, Zeus.”

It seemed *Yahweh* had brought the unsuspecting Mattathias to town for just this moment. Like the name of their region suggested, the family from *Hashmonah* were ready to be faithful ambassadors for the Kingdom of Heaven, mindless of the rarity of such a commitment. In a time when no other heart would have the courage to be loyal, Mattathias stood in quiet resolution. “You ask me to sacrifice to a pagan god? Never! Never will I bow down to your false gods. I would rather die than break the holy Covenant of *Yahweh*.”

“Any person who chooses to worship the God of the Jews will be killed, old man,” the officer threatened. Still Mattathias stood his ground.

The crowd of cowed Jews must

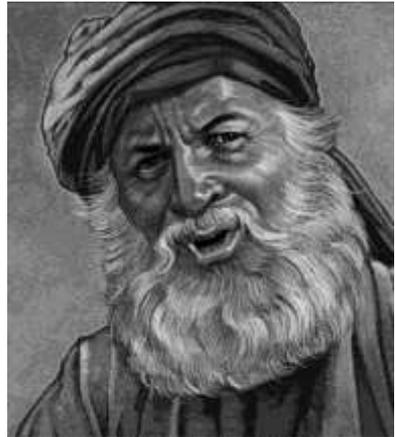


have collectively gasped. Yet, through the faithfulness of the old *Hashmonean* priest, compromised hearts were quickened.

Deciding to make the old man a public example, the Greek officer had Mattathias beaten. But, no matter how much the Greek official threatened or beat him, Mattathias bravely insisted that he would not dishonor *Yahweh*, no matter the personal cost.

Mattathias was beaten unmercifully. Many in Jerusalem were now watching the scene. It was very clear that when the Greeks were done with Mattathias, the test of worship or suffering would be put to each Jew. One Jewish man, desiring to establish himself in the good graces of the Greeks, stepped out from the crowd. Turning the attention from Mattathias for a moment, the disloyal Israelite volunteered to be the first to sacrifice to the Greek idol.

Horrified, the old priest was filled with righteous indignation. How dare this supposed child of *Yahweh* change sides to save himself? Strengthened by a Power not his own, Mattathias rose from the ground and rushed at the turn-coat Jew, killing him before he could render homage to the Abomination. Then, in the blink of an eye, Mattathias turned and struck the Greek official, slaying him, also.



With the two offenders dead at his feet, Mattathias shouted to the breathless crowd, *“Follow me.... every one of you who is zealous for the Torah and strives to maintain the Covenant,”* (I Maccabees 2:27).

From that moment until the Abomination of Desolation was conquered, Mattathias and his five sons were exiles. They left their home in *Hashmonah* and fled into the hills, followed by all who heard the call and shared Mattathias’ determination to serve *Yahweh* without compromise.

Prayerfully, and faithfully, the *Hashmonean* family led the revolt against the powerful Greek military.¹⁴¹ They were not concerned over their small numbers. With divine support, they were able to reclaim Jerusalem and reestablish the temple services.¹⁴² From their courage, *Hanukkah* was initiated that the world might never forget the power of the Almighty to defend the sacred Word and those of mature faith.

So important and effective was the Spirit-filled work of these *Hashmonean* ambassadors that *Yahshua* Himself commemorated *Yahweh's* Work through them by attending the *Hanukkah* feast at Jerusalem. We find this in John 10:22. *Yahshua*, our “Example in all things,” kept the “Dedication” which in Hebrew is “*Hanukkah*.”

Final "Israel" will also face the calling of Hashmonah.

Chanukah (Hanukkah), the “Festival of Dedication” or “Festival of Lights,” is celebrated for eight days. It commemorates the rededication of the Temple for the service of *Yahweh*, in 165 B.C. It also reminds us of how a little band, led by *Yahweh's Hashmonean* ambassadors, defeated the “beast power” “not by might, nor by power, but by *YAH's* Spirit,” (Zechariah 4:6). This small band of faithful believers became *YAH's* battle axe against the enemy of *Yahweh*:

Thou art My battle ax and weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms; And with thee will I break in pieces the horse and his rider. . . And with thee will I break in pieces captains and rulers. And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith [Yahweh], Jeremiah 51:20-24.

SPIRITUAL LESSONS OF *HASHMONAH*

Apparently, the Children of Israel's experience at *Hashmonah* in being called to be “ambassadors” of the Most High was a lingering lesson in this place. And where ancient Israel largely failed, about a

thousand years later, the region was marked by outstanding faithfulness to *Yahweh*. Again, in the very End, *Yahweh* will have a small band of people who will rally to become, His “battle ax” against the enemies of Spiritual Zion.

When the Abomination of Desolation is set up in the near future, the call will go out to the defenders of the faith. Will you stand firm for the Word of *Yahweh* when your church and social group pressures you to defile your soul temple, desecrate *Yahweh’s* sacred things, and serve (worship) the Abomination of Desolation? Some are suggesting, as in the *Watchmen Weekly*, that the progression is very far along!

If our eyes “light up” in delight over entertainment opportunities, while an hour of worship seems dull and boring, our “first love” is lost and our hearts are already turned toward the idol of amusement. If we seek for knowledge from the “broken cisterns” of human philosophy, while Bible study seems irrelevant and uninteresting, our “spiritual thirst” dulls and our spirits become shriveled, devoid of “Living Water.” If the spiritual leaders we respect and admire are popularly accepted and Jesuit-tainted, while the non-mainstream teachers of Truth seem legalistic and fanatical, our feet have already departed out of the Old Path. We have forsaken the Narrow Way.

*Only when we refuse
to partake of the
preparatory
compromises, will we
be able to withstand
when pressure is
upon us*

Our ability to stand faithful to *Yahweh* when the final Abomination of Desolation is established is being determined today. Only when we refuse to partake of the preparatory compromises, because we adore our Saviour; we love spending time in His Word; and, our favorite activities are prayer, Bible study, and sharing faith with others, -then, we are truly preparing to stand in the “evil day,” Ephesians 6:13.

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily

beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto (Yahshua) the Author and Finisher of our faith; Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the Throne of (YAH). For consider Him. . . lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin, Heb. 12:1-4.

To stand firm in the face of torture and death will require a “mature faith” that comes through refinement by the Holy Spirit's Fire! Flee nominal mediocrity! Flee the fakeness of religious social affiliation. Flee the influence of compromisers who turn your heart from the Path of Truth.¹⁴³

At *Hashmonah*, when the Children of Israel were first called to be “ambassadors” of the Most High, they were failing representatives, bringing more disgrace than glory to the Name of the Almighty. Their men were more interested in flexing their own power than sharing *YAH's* power with neighbors. But, centuries later, this weakness was reversed in the faithful witness of the Maccabean family of *Hashmonah*.

Soon the experience and calling of *Hashmonah* will fall to us. What sort of ambassadors will we be? Will we defeat the Abomination of Desolation, through the power of the Holy Spirit? Or will we bow the knee in trembling acquiescence? The destiny that awaits us then is being decided, moment by moment, now.



SUMMARY OF CHAPTER ELEVEN

- *Hashmonah*, Israel's 25th encampment name means “ambassadors” of the Most High.
- The Children of Israel largely failed to represent *Yahweh* in a manner which glorified His Name before the surrounding nations. But, what they failed to do, was fully accomplished through the faithful family of *Hashmonah* (the Maccabees) about 1000 years later.
- The Abomination of Desolation was not set up in a single day. It first reigned in the people's hearts, established by a series of, seemingly, small compromises.
- Those professed people of *YAH*, who engaged in the deceptive compromises, had already been worshipping the “beast” in their hearts long before they physically bowed the knee.
- In the last days, the Abomination of Desolation will be set up again. Again, the same preparatory compromises will tempt the people of *Yahweh*.
- Accepting the calling of experiential *Hashmonah* means that we will choose to be faithful ambassadors of Heaven. As such, we will not choose to partake of the Abomination whether in incremental conciliations or blatant idolatry.
- Only those who resist the compromises and remain faithful to *Yahweh* in the “smaller” tests will stand true when loyalty comes to a test of blood. These will form His battle ax.