

“FROM MADNESS TO HANUKKAH”

1. What villain in a movie or show have you found particularly heinous or disturbing? What made them so? What was their motivation for doing evil? Compare them to Antiochus IV Epiphanes.

2. If Antiochus was one of the top five cruelest tyrants in history, who would be the other four?

3. What was the driving force behind Antiochus IV Epiphanes' desire to eradicate Judaism?

4. How is the title “Epiphanes” (“God Manifest”) such a contrast to what we celebrate during Christmas and Epiphany?

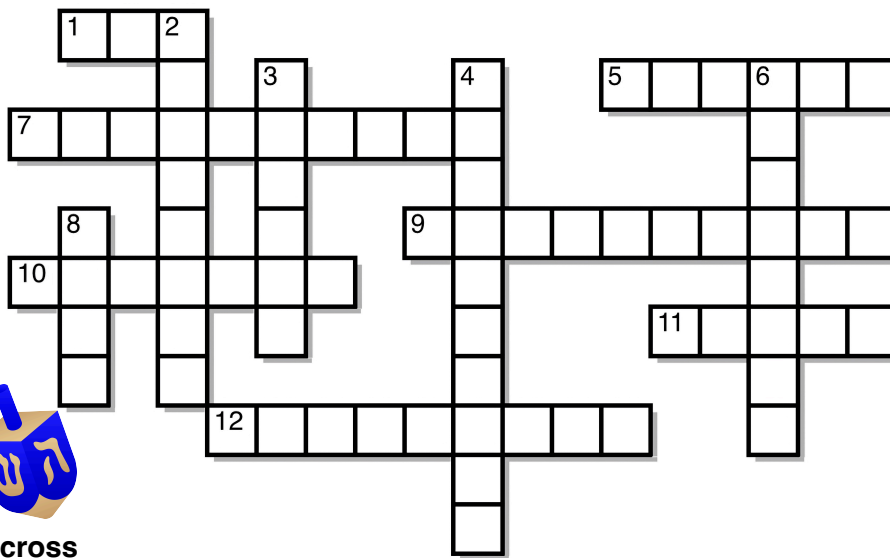
5. What are some of the horrors Epiphanes committed against the Jews that you think would be the most difficult to bear?

6. If you had been Jewish at the time when Antiochus outlawed everything that had to do with the Jewish culture, what would you have done to preserve that culture underground?

7. Daniel wants to know “how long” this time of suffering will endure. What is the response he receives? What do you make of Daniel specifying the time frame for the fulfillment of his vision (vv.13,26)? Why do you think God allows the transgression of his moral law for such a long time?

8. How might one reach for the stars, desecrate the temple, or trample truth underfoot, as in verses 10-12: (a) Disregard biblical truth? (b) Deny Jesus is God? (c) "Play God"? (d) Other: ? How long can your society get away with that?

9. How does Hanukkah tie in with Christmas? How does it point to Jesus?

**Across**

- 1 Antiochus sacrifice this kind of animal on the altar in the Temple.
 5 Maccabees a term believed to come from the Aramaic word meaning "_____".
 7 Jesus says in Mark 13:14 that another unholy sacrifice will be offered on the altar of God. He calls it the "abomination of _____".
 9 Antiochus forbid the Jews to do this to their sons.
 10 The lampstand in the Temple was also called this, which Jews often keep small replicas of.
 11 Antiochus wanted to replace Jewish religion and culture with _____ religion and culture.
 12 What kind of persecution was previously unknown in the history of civilization until Antiochus Epiphanes came on the scene?

Down

- 2 Verse 9 refers to Israel as "the _____ Land."
 3 Antiochus Epiphanes was called by the Jews "Antiochus Epimanes," which means "Antiochus the _____."
 4 Antiochus Epiphanes was a preview of this end-times figure.
 6 Epiphanes means "God _____".
 8 The Jewish altar was replaced with an altar to this Greek deity.

**WORD SEARCH:**

Seleucid	Saturnalia
Antiochus	Bacchanalia
Epiphanes	Temple
Egypt	Abomination
Persia	Daniel
Israel	Horn
Conquest	Torah
Jason	Dreidel
Menelaus	Nun
Apollonius	Gimmel
Maccabees	Hai
Mattathias	Shin
Festivals	Hanukkah

L M B J N H D V S J A N G M R G Z N M V
 A I L U A Z Y E H I O D R L R B Y X D M
 N S N I Z M L A L I T Z V N N T K R T Q
 T R N L Z E N A T M E G M Q B Q W D J D
 I A Y K U U N A P M M B V P P W B Q T Q
 O E Z C K A N F E O P T T Q P T L B T K
 C L I K H I A N E G L C O N Q U E S T T
 H D A C M L E I M S E L L R M G A J N L
 U H C O E L M A L S T E O A Y I M D T J
 S A B I A G C W E A D I T N S K G G T T
 B A N U N C Y N Z I N T V R I I Q B V T
 M A S R A M A P E M A R E A M U T R L Q
 D K O B V H P R T T T P U M L G S Q B M
 Y H E G P N D P H O Q B E T K S L D L X
 D E G I Q B I I M R B L K N A N O S A J
 S D P L Y Z A H T A L J M N T S M Q P Q
 V E Q T B S V M S H Y T M R D P Q L Z Y