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Week Seven Assignment

October 5, 2017, Bi-103 Synoptic Gospel, Professor Armstrong

### The Festival of Hanukkah

Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish holiday. It is also known as the Festival of Lights.

Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish holiday remembering and celebrating the rededication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple) in Jerusalem. This rededication took place during the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2nd century BCE. Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days. Hanukkah starts on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar, which may occur at any time from late November to late December in the Gregorian calendar. This year Hanukkah begins on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 and ends on Wednesday, December 20, 2017.

There are some historian figures out debate the causes and outcomes of the war in which Judah Maccabee and his followers defeated the Syrian armies of Antiochus; there is no doubt that Hanukkah evokes stunning images of Jewish valor against overwhelming odds.

Should Christians celebrate Hanukkah today? Be mindful of the fact that we are not obligated nor are we ordered to celebrate any Jewish festivals. As believers in Jesus Christ, if you have an appreciation for the Hebraic roots of our Christian faith, you should have no problem celebrating the “true light” of this world Jesus Christ. As Christians, we can celebrate the “Festival of Lights” as we rededicate our lives to Christ and truly believe in Him as the perfect

and true light of this world. As believers, when we celebrate Hanukkah it reminds us of God's wonderful works on our behalf. It reminds us of God's protection throughout our lives. It gives us a more appreciation of the favor of God. It reminds us to remain true to God even when the world around us tries to force us into assimilation