



CHANUKAH

Putting things in **PERSPECTIVE**

A closer look at the major events leading up to the most famous Jewish military victory of all time: the retaking of the Beis HaMikdash from the hands of the mighty Syrian-Greek army – and the open miracle that followed, all of which eventually led to the creation of the annual 8-day celebration of Chanukah | BY ROBERT SUSSMAN

3412

The Second Beis HaMikdash (Temple) was completed.

c3448

Alexander the Great, who had previously conquered Persia, conquered the Middle East, sparing the Beis HaMikdash (Temple) from destruction after meeting with Shimon HaTzadik, the Kohen Gadol at the time, and recognising the regal garments adorning the Kohen Gadol as being the same worn by a man who would appear in his dreams prior to each of his military victories.

3454

Alexander died and his kingdom was divided between four of his generals. Eretz Yisrael (the land of Israel) was caught between two of these kingdoms, the Egyptians and the Syrians, and was usually under the dominion of one or the other.

3515

The Egyptian-Greek ruler gathered and separately sequestered 72 Torah scholars, forcing them to translate the Torah into the Greek language – with the result that the scholars produced 72 identical translations, including identical changes to the text in 13 places.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS:
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