

Jewish Temple Observing Hanukkah



HANUKKAH — Barbara Bell lights the candles of the Menorah (a special candlestick) for the eight-day Jewish Feast of Dedication which began last night.

But for Judah Maccabees we might have had no Christmas.

He was the man who led the Jewish revolt against Antiochus Epiphanes (the Mad King) and the Hellenists in 165 B. C.

Jews throughout the world last night began their annual celebration (Hanukkah) in honor of the success of that revolt by lighting the first candle of the Menorah. Tonight they will light two candles, tomorrow night three candles and on through next Tuesday night when all eight candles are lighted.

Legend has it that after the Jews drove the Greeks from Jerusalem and the Temple, they searched for oil undefiled by Greek hands to put in the Temple candelabra. A very small amount of such oil was found but it miraculously burned eight nights.

The greater miracle, according to Rabbi Mayer Hannick of the Santa Fe Jewish Temple, was the successful revolt in the face of overwhelming odds. In the more factual account of the revolution it took eight days to clean up and repair the temple.

Services had been suspended during the three-year war and the Greeks and some of their Jewish abettors who were attracted by the Hellenistic culture had dese-

crated the Temple.

The revolt began after Jewish mothers and their male babies were killed for refusing to obey the Mad King's order to cease their observance of Abraham's covenant of circumcision. This is the one covenant observed by all Jews whether they are orthodox or not, Rabbi Hannick explained. The covenant also is considered one of the main distinctions between Jew and Gentile.

The revolt was led by an aged priest, Mattathias, and his five sons, notably Judah Maccabees.

If they had not succeeded, the Jewish race and religion may have been wiped out and Christ would not have been born to a Jewish mother, the rabbi said.

Hanukkah, also known as the Feast of Dedication, always begins

on the 25th of the Jewish month of Kislev and continues eight days. On Sunday, the sixth day of Hanukkah, the pupils of the Santa Fe Jewish Temple will present a special program of lighting the Menorah and of songs and recitations at 1:30 p.m. in the Temple.

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