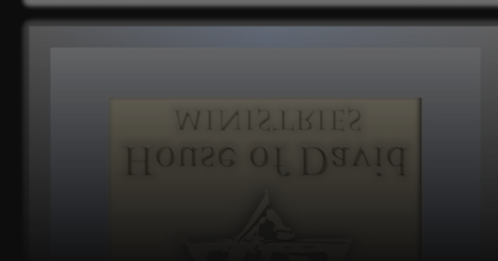
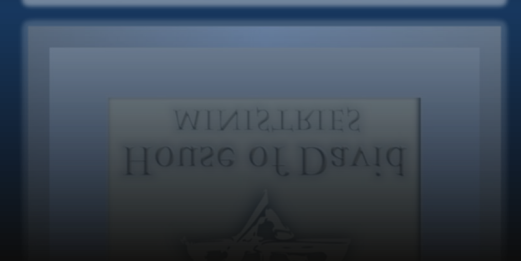


Chanukah—The Festival of Lights and Feast of Dedication

December 4, 2020



Part 1
The Story



The Maccabean Revolt



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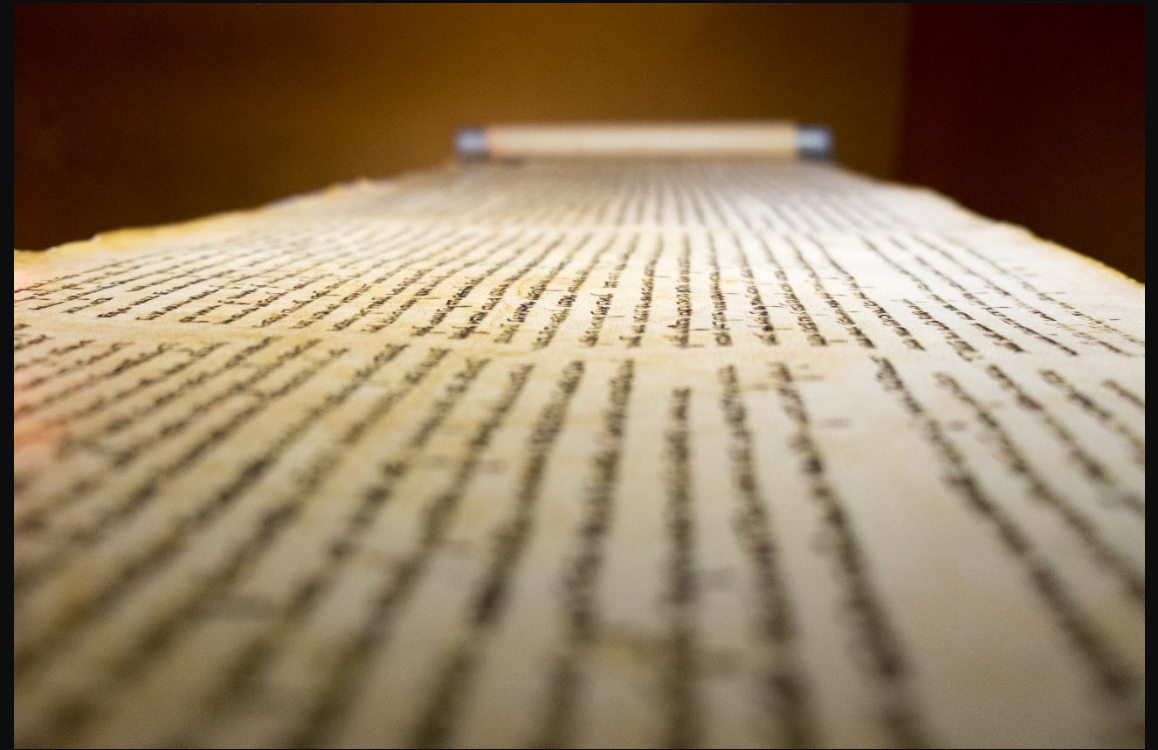
- ❖ The story takes place about two-hundred years before the birth of Christ during the Second Temple.
- ❖ A small group led by a family of priests called the Maccabees rose against the Greek Syrian oppressors—the Maccabean Revolt.

Who is Like You



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- ❖ The word “Maccabee” is an acronym for Exodus 15:11 *“Mi Komocha Baelim Hashem,”* meaning “Who is like You among the heavenly powers, O God.”
- ❖ Maccabee is also the Hebrew word for hammer—*Makav*.



Fighting for the Soul of Israel



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- ❖ This rebellion was not just a fight against foreign occupiers.
- ❖ It was a spiritual battle against the Hellenization and assimilation of the Jewish people into Greek culture and idolatry.



Seven Days of Sanctification



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- ❖ The sacrifice of pigs desecrated the Temple, and the priests became ritually impure by their exposure to men who had died in battle.
- ❖ Re-dedication of the Temple and sanctification of the priests (*Kohanim*) would require seven days according to Mosaic Law, during which the menorah—eternal lamp—would need to burn continuously.

Not Enough Oil



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- ❖ Upon recapturing the temple, the priests discovered there was only one crucible of pure olive oil, enough to burn for one day.
- ❖ They filled the menorah cups and lit the lamps.



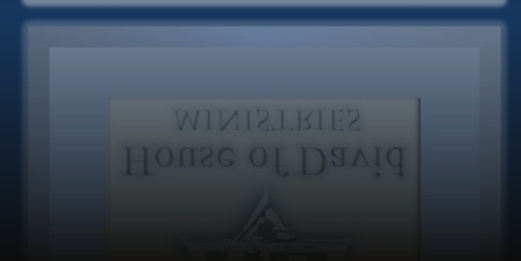
It Burned Eight Days



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- ❖ Miraculously, the oil in the burned for eight days—enough time for the priests to purify themselves and keep the eternal lamp burning.
- ❖ Therefore, the Chanukah menorah has eight candles as opposed to the seven that were prescribed for the Temple.

Part 2
The Miracle



The Fullness of Time



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- ❖ Seven represents the fullness of time—in seven days the heavens and the earth and all their host were made.
- ❖ Seven represents the completion of God’s work in the creation.
- ❖ However, the number eight is also spiritually significant.
- ❖ We will see why?

Explaining the Miracle



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- ❖ The rabbis have differing opinions about the precise nature of the miracle of Chanukah.
- ❖ Some say the oil was provided supernaturally.
- ❖ Others say the fire itself was supernatural.
- ❖ These opinions are invalidated by scripture and the Law of Moses.



It Burned but Did Not Burn

- ❖ The Law required real oil with a real flame.
- ❖ The only plausible answer?
- ❖ The oil burned with a real flame, but at the same time, it did not burn.
- ❖ Like the burning bush witnessed by Moses; it also was on fire but not consumed by the flames.

The Ark of the Covenant



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- ❖ To understand this miracle we turn to a narrative of the Talmud:
- ❖ “When they brought the Ark that Moses crafted into the Holy of Holies in the Temple of King Solomon, even though the total width of the Holy of Holies was only twenty cubits, nevertheless the Ark had ten cubits of space between it and the wall in every direction.”

It Occupied No Space



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- ❖ “And it is written in the description of Solomon’s Temple: ‘And before the Sanctuary, which was twenty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in breadth’ (*1 Kings 6:20*). The place ‘before the Sanctuary’ is referring to the Holy of Holies.”
- ❖ “It was twenty by twenty cubits. If there were ten cubits of space on either side of the Ark, apparently the Ark itself occupied no space.”

The Paradox

- ❖ How is this possible?
- ❖ How can something physically occupy space in our temporal world, but at the same time not occupy it?



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The Underlying Miracle



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- ❖ This mystery suggests the underlying miracle.
- ❖ A real flame burned with real olive oil for eight days, but at the same time, it did not burn.
- ❖ In other words, it transcended our physical realm.

Correlation to Yeshua

- ❖ How does all this correlate to Yeshua, the Messiah of Israel?
- ❖ Yeshua said, my kingdom is not of this world.



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Beyond the Creation



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- ❖ Yeshua is the transcendent one, born in the natural.
- ❖ Yet, He is beyond time and the created world itself.
- ❖ And He walked in our shoes and suffered with us.
- ❖ Like us, Yeshua was in the world but not of the world.

The Law of the Spirit



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- ❖ The law of nature is about self-preservation of our flesh, but the law of the spirit gives us eternal life and has set us free from the law of sin and death.
- ❖ And Yeshua is the ultimate fulfillment of this law.
- α “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (*Matthew 20:28*).

A Transcendent Realm

❖ The number eight points to a transcendent realm, another dimension—a spiritual world that exists within our physical realm, but at the same time does not exist.



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Yeshua is the Transcendent One

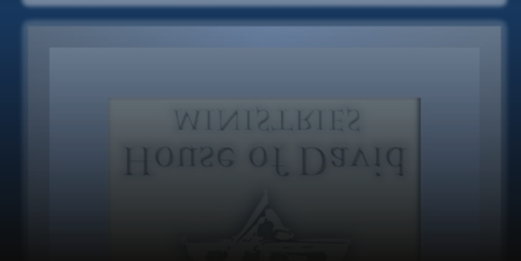


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❖ Yeshua is also beyond our temporal reality unless He opens our eyes to see the miracle.

α “So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him” (*Luke 24:15-16*).

Part 2
Rededication



Yeshua Visited the Temple



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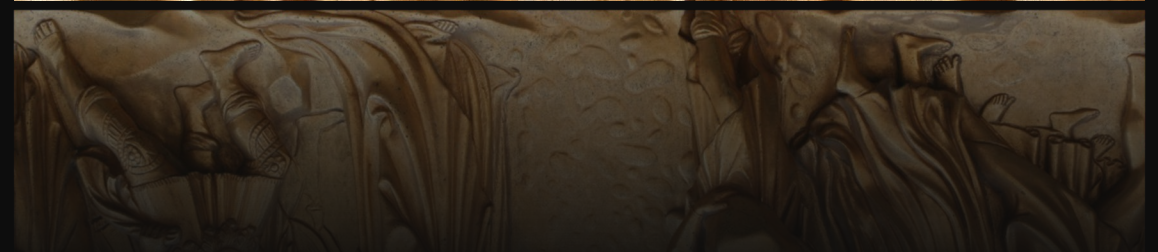
- ❖ Yeshua visited the Temple during the Feast of Dedication and revealed Himself as the Christ—the anointed one of Israel.
- ❖ He is the light of the world and the light of all men, so it was appropriate for Him to be revealed during Chanukah—the Festival of Lights.

Dedication of the Altar



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❖ The Hebrew word Chanukah means dedication or induction, and can be traced to *chanukat hamizbeach*, “the dedication of the altar,” a term used in the inauguration of the Tabernacle of Moses.



Celebration of the Rededication



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- ❖ After the Maccabees defeated the Greeks and found the Temple and altar had been defiled, they buried the defiled stones and built a new altar.
- ❖ Chanukah celebrates this physical rededication of the Holy Temple and altar in Jerusalem.

They Rested



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❖ The root of the word Chanukah is *chanu*, which means “they rested.”

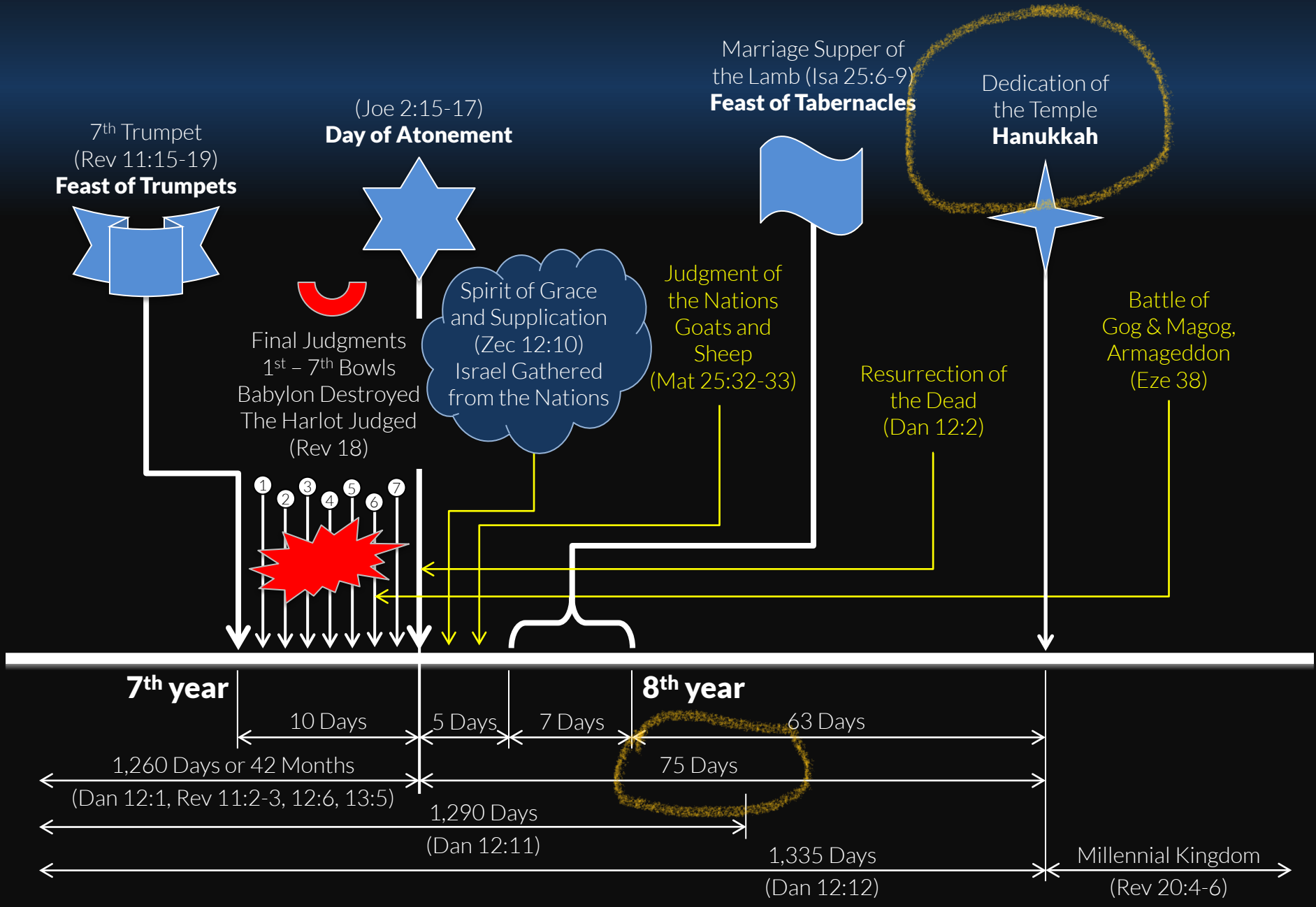
⌘ “But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest (*tanucha*), and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days” (*Daniel 12:13*).

Seventy-five Days



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- ❖ The Books of Daniel and Revelation correlate.
- ❖ Counting from the beginning of the 70th week of Daniel (seven-year tribulation), we find the 335th day in the Hebrew calendar comes exactly 75-days after the Day of Atonement.
- ❖ Falling precisely on the Feast of Dedication—Chanukah.



A Prophetic Implication



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- ❖ This alignment of scripture is not a coincidence, but a prophetic implication of the future Messianic promises for Israel.
- ❖ We conclude that Chanukah represents the beginning of the millennial kingdom.
- ❖ Therefore, God commanded that the sons of the covenant (Jewish boys) are circumcised on the eighth day.

We Are the Temple



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❖ In Christ, we are the temples of the living God—circumcised in the heart by the burning fire of the Holy Spirit.



The Return of Christ



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❖ When Yeshua returns:

α “The dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord” (*1 Thessalonians 4:16-17*).

❖ As promised to Daniel, we also shall enter our eternal rest in Christ.

Extension of the Golden Lampstand



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❖ Our sages proclaimed the Chanukah menorah symbolizes an extension of the golden lampstand that stood in the Temple.

❖ Therefore, the Chanukah lights are considered holy.



There to Illuminate



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- ❖ The golden lampstand was not used in the formal priestly ceremonies in the Temple.
- ❖ It was only there to illuminate and to adorn the house of God, and to remind us that God is eternal and that He is the light of all men.

The Greater Blessing

❖ Our sages emphasized the greater blessing of Chanukah was placement of the menorah in a window or door viewable to the public, to proclaim the miracle of God.



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You Are the Light of the World



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❖ Yeshua made a similar proclamation:

α “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (*Matthew 5:14-16*).

A Prophetic Revelation



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- ❖ The story of Chanukah is a prophetic revelation of the return of Christ and the rebuilding and re-dedication of His earthly Temple in Jerusalem.
- ❖ Also the restoration and re-dedication of the Jewish people as God's bride.

The Restoration of Israel



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- ❖ Israel is to become a kingdom of priests.
- ❖ The nations of the earth have been invited to share in this covenant relationship with Israel by joining her as “one new man” in Christ to become “one people” of God.
- ❖ We, together, are the great assembly (*ecclesia*) of every tribe and tongue and people and nation—we are the church.

May We Enter His Rest



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- ❖ Now joined with Israel, we have been purified, made white and refined.
- ❖ May we all enter His eternal rest, and may His eternal light burn forever in our hearts.
- ❖ Amen!

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