

JANUARY 2023

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia
SK Douglas N. Cohen, Grand Commander;
SK Carter L. Diggs Jr. Editor

HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR! Sir Knights ALL,

This week marks the transition between Christmas and the New Year. For Christian Knight's, Christmas is a special designated celebration of the birth of Jesus. It also coincides with the final days of the Hebrew celebration of Chanukah - the festival of lights. It is hard to believe that it is a mere coincidence that BOTH of these Abrahamic Faith's Holy Days occur at the same time of year and often (as these do) at overlapping and/or concurrent days, or that Ramadan sometimes does as well. It is no coincidence that the three great Abrahamic Faiths (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) ALL derive from a common root - Abraham (Avram), the father of the three great monotheistic Faiths.

What is interesting is that after all the dogma and jurisdictional differences are put aside, they each celebrate "The Light". For the Hebrews, it is the miracle of the oil for the 8 days of the Menorah in the Temple. For Christians, it is the designated day of the birth of "The Light". While there is much history and debate over the minutia, that is NOT the purpose of this message.

All three Abrahamic Faiths recognize the importance of the Great Prophets and the coming of THE MESSIAH. The Hebrews say He is yet to come but will. Christians say that He has come and will return - both promising redemption and the salvation of humanity. Islam teaches and acknowledges that Abraham, Moses, and Jesus are all great Prophets, divinely inspired, to bring a message of redemption and to point the way for their True Messiah.

None of them are wrong. They ALL tell of and promise a time of redemption and renewal of all who live and follow a righteous path and believe in HIM.

This is not an easy thing to do, especially in this secular world - which MANY, of all 3 Faiths - believe IS the test and is a deliberate path set before us all to sharpen our awareness and resolve for what is to come. Lord KNOWS that I fall far short of that goal, but I AM trying as best I can, with what I have. And it is not easy... it was never meant to be easy... if you are an athlete, you don't start out with a 4-minute mile or an 18 ft pole vault. It takes work and practice as well as dedication and purpose, and it isn't meant to be easy.

This is the time of year for the celebration of the good things in life, tempered with a remembrance of where we were, where we are, and where we need to be - and, most importantly, how to get there. Let's us not forget the TRUE meanings of these days and celebrations but enjoy them none the less!

To all of the Sir Knights, EVERYWHERE, where so ever dispersed, I wish you a joyous and happy Chanukah, a blessed Christmas holiday season, the blessings of Allah and the hopes for a wonderful new year for you, your families and all our Sir Knights, everywhere.

SK. Douglas N. Cohen

Right Eminent Grand Commander

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Knights Templar Order Keepers Of Ancient Relics

