

שבת חנוכה א

Zechariah, chapter 2, verse 14 to chapter 4, verse 7

Introduction

The choice of this haftarah:

Chanukah is the festival of lights, and the haftarah ends with a vision of the candelabrum in the Jerusalem Temple. An additional reason for the choice lay in the memorable passage pronounced by the angel (4:6): "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit" Political circumstances at the time were such that the Rabbis who chose the order of haftarot (centuries after Zechariah) wanted to infuse the festival of the Maccabean victory in 164 B.C.E. with a pacific note.

When there are two Shabbatot during the festival, Zechariah is read on the first Shabbat and a selection from the book of Kings on the second (see the next haftarah).

The haftarah from Zechariah is also read for the sidra B'ha-alot'cha; see there for text and commentary.