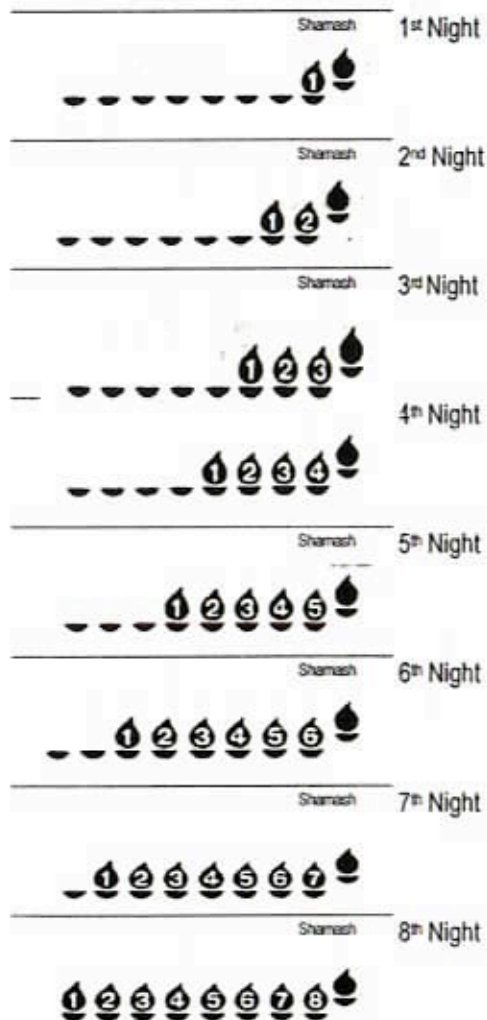


Lighting the Lights

Chanukah Lights should be kindled as soon as possible after nightfall. The *shamash* (servant) candle is kindled first and is used to light the other candles. On the first night of Chanukah one light is kindled, at the right of the Menorah. Each night thereafter one light is added to the immediate left of the one kindled the preceding night. The newly added light is always kindled first and the kindling then proceeds to the Right

ORDER OF MENORAH KINDLING



Blessings & Dedication

Before kindling the lights, the following blessings are recited:

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהנו מלך העולם.
אשר קדשנו במצותיו, בשם משיחנו
אנחנו הדליקם הנרות של חנוכה:

*Barukh atah adonai elohaynu melekh ha-olam
Asher kid-shanu b'mitz-vo-tav b'shem m'shi-khay-nu
Anakh-nu had-likim ha-narot shel kha-nu-kah.*

*Blessed are you, L-rd, our G-d, King of the
Universe, who has sanctified us by your
commandments. In the name of our Messiah
Y'shua we kindle the lights of Chanukah.*

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהנו מלך העולם.
שעשה נסים לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה:

*Barukh atah adonai elohaynu melekh ha-olam
She-asah ni-sim la-avo-taynu ba-y'mim na-hem
bazman ha-zeh.*

*Blessed are you, L-rd, our G-d, King of the
Universe, who performed miracles for our
fathers in those days at this season.*

The following blessing is said only on first evening:

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהנו מלך העולם.
שהחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה:

*Barukh atah adonai elohaynu melekh ha-olam
She-hekhey-anu v'kimanu v'higianu laz-man ha-zeh*

*Blessed are you, L-rd, Our G-d, King of the
Universe, who has kept us alive and sustained
us and brought us to this season*

After kindling the lights say' this Dedication:
*As the L-rd of all creation provided the miracle
of oil at Chanukah, He has now given the
miracle of the flame of His Spirit within us
through Y'shua our Messiah. So as the lights of
Chanukah are lit we dedicate the temples we
are to our Messiah Y'shua and proclaim,
Blessed are you, Adonai, our Redeemer, our
King, the Almighty, the Holy One who gives
LIGHT to your people.**

Messianic Chanukah



ROSH PINAH CONGREGATION

אבן מאסו הבונים היתה לראש פינה



Chanukah

Festival of Lights

"The L-rd is able to save by many or few..."

Chanukah celebrates *"The deliverance of the mighty into the hands of the weak, the many into the hands of the few, and the wicked into the hands of the righteous..."* (Siddur). Antiochus of Syria ruled over the land of Israel during the period after the death of Alexander the Great. He set out to Hellenize the Jews, forbidding the study of Torah, and Jewish observances, forcing upon the people of G-d the idolatrous practices of pagan Greece.

Antiochus was backed by a large army of soldiers. Many of the Jews staunchly resisted the Syrians and under the banner of a faithful Jewish family, the *Chashmonayim*, they fought Syrian oppression. Brave Jewish fighters called Maccabees, waged an incessant battle to drive the enemy of the G-d of Israel and His people from the land.

Against overwhelming odds they succeeded. The Syrians fled and Jerusalem was freed. The Temple that had been defiled by pagan Greek rites was purified and rededicated. The Menorah, the candelabra which symbolized the Divine Presence and His Holy Spirit, was rekindled with undefiled olive oil that had been discovered in the Temple. Miraculously, the one-day supply burned for eight days, until new pure oil was produced.

This all happened about 165 years before Israel's Messiah, Y'shua (Jesus) was born. Our ancient prophets foretold that Messiah would be LIGHT. "Indeed He (the L-rd) says; 'It is too small a thing that you (Messiah) should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel. I will also give you as a Light to the Gentiles, that you should be my salvation to the ends of the earth.'" Isaiah 49:6.



The Light of the World

"Let your LIGHT shine before men..."

When the days of Y'shua's mother's purification according to the Law of Moses were completed, his parents brought him to the Temple, in Jerusalem, (the very place where the miracle of the LIGHTS of Chanukah happened). *They came to present him to the L-rd as it is written in the Law of Moses. "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the L-rd." (Exodus 13:2,12-15), and to offer a sacrifice according to the Law of the L-rd, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons" (Leviticus 12:8).*

It says in Luke 2, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, a just, devout man, praying for the Consolation of Israel. The Spirit of the L-rd had revealed to him that he would not see death until he had seen the L-rd's Messiah. So he came by the Spirit of G-d into the Temple when Y'shua's parents brought him there to fulfill the Law. *Simeon took the babe in his arms and blessed the G-d of Israel and said; "L-rd, now you may dismiss your servant in peace according to your word; for my eyes have seen your Salvation which you have prepared before the presence of all peoples, a LIGHT of revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel."*

In addition to Isaiah 49:6, just quoted. Isaiah 60:1-3 adds, *"Arise, shine, for your LIGHT has come and the glory of the L-rd is risen upon you. The Gentiles should come to your LIGHT and kings to the brightness of your rising."* We live in the fulfillment of that promise. Baruch Hashem.

We read in John 10:22 that Y'shua was in the temple during Chanukah. Today we joyously celebrate Chanukah by kindling the Menorah LIGHTS for eight days, to remind us of Y'shua, our Messiah. To us who believe, He is indeed the LIGHT OF THE WORLD. This is a time to praise the Holy One of Israel that by Messiah's death, burial and resurrection that we have been delivered from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of His LIGHT.

How To Celebrate Chanukah

Kindle the Chanukah Menorah on each of the eight nights of Chanukah. See the Menorah Kindling Order.

Use the "Shamash" (servant candle) to kindle the lights and place it in its special place on the Menorah.

Use olive oil or paraffin candles large enough to burn at least half an hour after nightfall.

The Chanukah Lights are to be kindled by a window or doorway so they can shed their light outside.

Before kindling recite the Blessings, after kindling recite the Dedication.

All members of the family should be present for the lighting of the Chanukah Lights and take turns kindling and reciting the Blessings and Dedication.

On Friday evening the Chanukah Menorah is kindled before the Shabbat candles are lit.

REMEMBER:

To thank G-d for Y'shua being the LIGHT OF THE WORLD and your family's LIGHT.

The victory then enabled G-d's purpose for Israel to continue as His messengers of the LIGHT.

As the shamash (servant) lights the other candles, Y'shua became a servant so that we might come to G-d's LIGHT. Be a servant to point others to the LIGHT.

That keeping G-d's LIGHT shining in this world is a difficult and costly affair. Commit yourself afresh to the purposes of G-d in the earth.