

ב"ה

# Chanukah iPhone



24:00 pm



SMS Messages



Calendar



Pictures



Camera



Settings



Music



GPS



Weather



Email



Telephone



Reminders



Clock



Help





### What is Chanukah?

Thousands of years ago, the Syrian-Greek Empire ruled over the Land of Israel. At this time, harsh decrees were passed against the Jews, banning all Jewish religious practices. The Jews were not allowed to study Torah or observe mitzvot. Their oppressors took over their property and their children, and they even broke into the Holy Temple. There, the Greeks desecrated whatever they could find, defiling everything that was pure. This situation was especially difficult for the Jewish nation, who prayed to G-d to save them from their suffering. G-d had mercy

upon the Jews, and He ultimately saved them from the Greeks. The Chashmonayim, from the family of the Kohen Hagadol, managed to overthrow and kill the Greeks, redeeming the Jewish nation from their oppressors. A king was chosen from the Kohanim, and the new kingdom of Israel remained in power for over 200 years, until the destruction of the Second Temple.

When the Jews finally overthrew their enemies on 25th Kislev, they entered the Temple Sanctuary. Unfortunately, they could not find a jar of pure oil in the Temple apart from one small cruse that still bore an unbroken seal from the Kohen Hagadol, proving its state of ritual purity. This small jar only contained enough oil to light the menorah (the ritual candelabra in the Temple) for one day. The candles were lit, and they stayed alight for eight days until more pure olive oil had been produced.

For this reason, the Sages of that generation decreed that these eight days, starting from 25th Kislev, should be a time of celebration and joy. During this time, we light candles on each of the eight nights of Chanukah in the doorways of our homes as a reminder and revelation of the miracle.

The story of the miracle of Chanukah should be told in every Jewish home to all of the members of the family, recalling the miracles and wonders that were performed for our ancestors at that time.

## CHANUKAH CUSTOMS:

It is customary to eat foods fried in a lot of oil, such as doughnuts and latkes, in order to commemorate the miracle of the jar of oil.

There is a Jewish custom to play with a dreidel. This is a spinning top on which the letters nun, gimmel, hey, and shin appear. These stand for the words of the sentence Nes [a miracle] Gadol [great] Hayah [occurred] Sham [there=Israel].

It is customary to give Chanukah gelt (coin) to children, (boys and girls, whether younger or older children).

Tell the members of the family the Chanukah story and about the miracles that G-d performed for our ancestors at that time.

It is also a custom to eat dairy foods during Chanukah in order to remember the bravery of Yehudit, the daughter of Yochanan the Kohen Hagadol. She used dairy foods to cause the wicked Greek general to become thirsty and get drunk, ultimately leading to his death.



## Haneirot Halalu:

In phonetics:

Haneirot halalu anu madlikin,  
Al hateshuot ve'al haniflaot,  
She'asita l'avoteinu beyamim haheem bizman hazeh,  
Al yidei kohanecha hakhodoshim

Vechol shmonat yimei Chanukah, haneirot halalu  
kodesh hem.

V'ain lanu rishut lehishtamesh bahem eleh lirotan  
bilvad,

K'dei lehodot ulehallel leshimcha hagadol.

Al nisecha ve'al nifla'otecha ve'al yeshuotecha

Translation:

These Lights

We kindle these lights

[To commemorate] the saving acts, miracles and  
wonders

That You have performed for our forefathers in those  
days at this time

Through Your holy Kohanim.

Throughout the eight days of Chanukah, these lights  
are sacred

And we are not permitted to make use of them, but only  
to look at them

In order to offer thanks and praise to Your great Name  
For Your miracles, Your wonders, and Your salvations.

Visit us on the home page of the Morasha  
website at: [www.morasha.eu](http://www.morasha.eu), where you can  
listen to other Chanukah songs.



## Yimei Chanukah:

In phonetics:

Yimei Chanukah, chanukat mikdasheinu  
Gil vesimcha mimalayim et libeinu,  
Laila veyom sevivoneinu yasuv,  
Sufganiyot naachal bam lerov.  
Ha'iru, hadliku, neirot Chanukah rabbim  
Al hanissim ve'al hanifla'ot  
Asher asah Hashem lemaccabim.

Translation:

The Days of Chanukah:

The days of Chanukah, the dedication of our Sanctuary:

Joy and happiness fill our hearts.

Night and day, we spin our dreidels,

We eat many doughnuts.

Many Chanukah lights shine and are kindled

To commemorate the miracles and wonders

That G-d performed for the Maccabees.

## Maoz Tzur

In phonetics:

Maoz tzur yeshuati

Lecha na'eh lishabayach.

Tichon beit tefillati

Vesham todah nizabayach.

L'et tachin matbayach

Mitzar hamanbayach

Az egmor beshir mizmor

Chanukat hamizbeyach

Translation:

Mighty Stronghold

O mighty stronghold of my salvation,

To praise You is a delight.

Restore my House of Prayer

And there we will bring a thanksgiving offering.

When You will have prepared the slaughter

For the blaspheming foe,

Then I shall complete with a song of hymn

The dedication of the Altar.





G-d

TO:

A Jewish child

FROM:

SUBJECT



Dear G-d,

I would like to take the opportunity during Chanukah to thank You for the miracles and the great Redemption, the brave deeds and acts of salvation that You performed for our ancestors so many years ago at this time and on these days.

It all happened at the time of Mattityahu, son of Yochanan, the Kohen Hagadol, whose family is known as the Chashmonayim. These included Mattityahu's sons, and all of this occurred during the rule of the wicked Greek empire over the Jewish people. The Greeks passed many decrees that were to make us forget our holy Torah and cause the Jews to leave the path of the mitzvot. Yet You, in Your great mercy, were there for them during their suffering and You helped them at this difficult time.

And what did You do for them? You fought their battles, restored justice and law, and took vengeance upon the Greeks, giving them the just punishment that they deserved to receive at the hands of the Jews. The mighty army of the Greeks and their supporters fell to the far weaker forces of Mattityahu and his sons. The many fell into the hands of the Jewish minority that still maintained their faith in G-d. This made Your Name famous around the world, and this is why we celebrate the festival of Chanukah – to thank You and praise You for the great miracles that You performed for us. Thank You!

Yours truly,

Your faithful servant, a Jewish child

### Why is this festival called Chanukah?

The name symbolizes a day of victory: Chanu-Kah. In other words, on 25th Kislev (the numerical value of the letters Kaf and Hey is 25-Kah), the Maccabees put a stop to (Chanu) their enemies. Another meaning of the name is that when the Maccabees triumphed, the Holy Temple was sanctified, and a rededication ceremony (Chanukat Habayit) took place.



### Why eight days?

This is in order to commemorate the miracle of the small jar of oil in the Holy Temple. After the Chashmonayim (who were a weaker force) miraculously overcame the Greeks (who were much stronger and more numerous), they entered the Holy Temple. There, they found that when the Greeks had dominated Jerusalem, they had defiled all of the jars of pure oil that were supposed to be used for lighting the menorah in the Temple. Suddenly, the Chashmonayim discovered a tiny jar of oil that the Greeks had not found and had therefore remained pure. But the jar only contained enough oil to light the menorah for a single day. And what a miracle occurred!!! This small quantity of oil lasted for eight days, until new, pure oil could be produced and brought to the Temple. From then on, we have always remembered this miracle by lighting Chanukah candles every year during this eight-day period and recalling the wonders and amazing things that happened at this time.



### Why do we play with a dreidel?

The reason for this custom is that we must sit by the lights for half an hour after they have been kindled. This game was created so that the children would also enjoy this time. On the dreidel are written the letters, nun, gimmel, hey, and shin. They stand for the words of the sentence Nes [a miracle] Gadol [great] Hayah [occurred] Sham [there=Israel]. (This game should be played for fun, not money.)



### Why do we eat latkes?

On Chanukah, we eat cheese latkes to remember a miracle that occurred specifically through cheese. A Jewish woman deliberately befriended the leader of the Greek army in order to help the Jews. One night, she gave this general some delicious salty cheese, which made him very thirsty. She then gave him plenty of wine to drink until he was drunk. As a result, he passed out and she cut off his head. She then informed the Jews, who attacked the enemy's camp and were victorious. To remember this miraculous event, we eat dairy foods during Chanukah.





### Why do we eat doughnuts?

On Chanukah, we eat very oily foods in order to commemorate the miracle of the little jar of oil.



### Why do we kindle an additional light as a shammash?

As we are not allowed to benefit from the actual Chanukah lights, we light an additional candle known as the shammash. This provides us with light that we are allowed to benefit from. In addition, it reminds us of the Kohen who used to light the menorah in the Holy Temple.



### Why do we light the candles from left to right?

The first Chanukah light is put on the right side of the menorah because the right is the most important side. However, when we add another light to the menorah on each night, we always light the newest candle first. On the second night we therefore light the new candle first, which is the second from the right, and the first light from the left, and so forth. We follow this order each subsequent evening, and the light that is the furthest to the right is always the last one to be kindled.

### Why do we give Chanukah gelt?

On Chanukah, it is a mitzvah to give more tzedakah (charity). Therefore, we give some coins to our children so that they will have something to give to tzedakah.



### Why 36 candles?

The reason why we kindle a total of 36 lights during the Chanukah period is because this corresponds with the 36 hours that the Hidden Light served Adam before it was put away. It also corresponds with the 36 tractates of the Oral Law.





Chanukah always falls during the winter months. Despite the cold weather, however, we always perform the mitzvot of publicizing the Chanukah miracles by going to the public menorah lighting ceremonies that take place in every city.

#### The blessing on hearing thunder:

Baruch Atah Adon-I, Eloh-einu Melech Ha'olam shekocho ugevurato maleh olam  
Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, whose strength and power fill the world.

#### The blessing on seeing lightning:

Baruch Atah Adon-I, Eloh-einu Melech Ha'olam, oseh maaseh Bereishit.  
Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who performs the act of Creation.





### The Order of Kindling the Chanukah Lights

1. The Chanukah lights are kindled at sundown. For erev Shabbat (Friday night) and Motzaei Shabbat (Saturday), If this is not possible, the lights can be kindled at any time during the night, and if the members of the household are awake, the appropriate blessings can be made. For the blessings.
2. The menorah is placed on the left side of the door, opposite the mezuzah, in order to be encircled by mitzvot. (Alternatively, it is placed on the windowsill, on condition that the lights are also seen inside the house.)
3. The lights should be in a straight line and of equal height.
4. There should be a gap between each light so that the menorah does not resemble a fire.
5. It is forbidden to benefit from the lights of the candles or to light one candle from another. For this reason, a shamash [lit. "attendant"] is kindled, and this can be used for any purpose.



6. The shamash should stand above the other lights so that it is clear that it is not one of the candles used for the mitzvah.
7. The candles should remain alight for at least half an hour after nightfall.
8. Any type of light can be used, but it is most praiseworthy to use olive oil and wicks.

9. The lights are placed on the menorah's right side. On the first night, there is one light, two on the second night, and so forth until the eighth night, when there are eight lights. The lights are kindled from left to right, meaning that the new candle, which is the one that is furthest to the left, is kindled first, and then the rest are lit following that order, from left to right. The light that is the furthest to the right is always the last one to be kindled.



10. When the lights have been prepared for kindling, whether they are regular candles or small cups of olive oil, the blessings on lighting them are recited. On the first night that the candles are lit this year, three blessings are recited. During the rest of Chanukah, only two blessings are recited. (The third blessing, Shehechyanu, is only said on the first night.) Once the blessings have been said, the shamash, which is lit first, is used to kindle the lights. Once the lights have been kindled, the prayer Haneirot Halalu is sung, followed by other songs in accordance with the custom of the community.





1. We light the menorah every evening at nightfall.

2. On Friday, erev Shabbat, it is important to kindle the Chanukah lights before the Shabbat candles. This is because we cannot kindle the Chanukah lights once we have accepted that Shabbat has begun.

3. On Motzaei Shabbat, the Chanukah lights are kindled after Havdalah.

4. The Chanukah lights should burn for at least half an hour after they were kindled.





## The order of the blessings:

### The blessings on kindling the Chanukah lights:

#### Before lighting the candles, we say:

1. Baruch Atah Adon-I Eloh-einu Melech haolam, asher kidshanu bemitzvotav vetzivanu lehadlik ner Chanukah.

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His mitzvot and has commanded us to kindle the Chanukah light.

2. Baruch Atah Adon-I Eloh-einu Melech haolam, sheasah nissim lavoseinu, bayamim hahem bizman hazeh.

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days, at this time.

#### On the first night (or when the candles are lit for the first time this year), the following blessing is added:

Baruch Atah Adon-I Eloh-einu Melech haolam, shehechyanu vekiyamanu vehigyanu lizman hazeh

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this occasion.

#### After lighting the candles, we say:

Haneirot halalu anu madlikin, al hateshuot ve'al haniflaot she'asita l'avoteinu beyamim hahem bizman hazeh, al yidei kohanecha hakedoshim. Vechol shmonat yimei Chanukah, haneirot halalu kodesh hem. V'ain lanu rishut lehishtamesh bahem eleh lirotan bilvad, k'dei lehodot ulehallel leshimcha hagadol. Al nisecha ve'al nifloatecha ve'al yeshuotecha

#### Translation:

#### These Lights

We kindle these lights [to commemorate] the saving acts, miracles and wonders that You have performed for our forefathers in those days at this time through Your holy Kohanim. Throughout the eight days of Chanukah, these lights are sacred and we are not permitted to make use of them, but only to look at them in order to offer thanks and praise to Your great Name, for Your miracles, Your wonders, and Your salvations.

# Pictures



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Shabbat
	25th Kislev - 22nd December	26th Kislev - 23rd December	27th Kislev - 24th December	28th Kislev - 25th December	29th Kislev - 26th December	30th Kislev - 27th December
	Tonight is the first night of candle- lighting	Tonight is the second night of candle- lighting	Tonight is the third night of candle- lighting	Tonight is the fourth night of candle- lighting	Tonight is the fifth night of candle- lighting	Tonight is the sixth night of candle- lighting
1st Tevet - 28th December	2nd Tevet - 29th December					
Tonight is the seventh night of candle- lighting	Tonight is the eighth night of candle- lighting					

## Telephone



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