



# Understanding Hannukah

## The Festival of Dedication - A Biblical Holiday

Part of What the Church Needs to Know  
Jewish Roots 101



# Hannukah Items

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**Menorah**



**1 box of Chanukah Candles**

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**Hanukkah**, also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem after its defilement by the Seleucid Greeks.

It celebrates the miraculous event where a small amount of oil, enough to last one day, burned for eight days in the temple's menorah.

The holiday is marked by lighting the menorah, reciting blessings, playing dreidel, and enjoying traditional foods like latkes and sufganiyot.

The New Testament references Hanukkah in John 10:22-23, which states:

"Then came the **Festival of Dedication** at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade."

The "Festival of Dedication" refers to Hanukkah, highlighting Yeshua's (Jesus') presence in the Temple during this celebration, affirming its significance in Jewish life during His time.

# Blessings for Hannukah

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One candle is added to the menorah each night. The first night, you light only the shammas (the one at a different height) and one Hannukah candle. By the eighth night, you light all of the candles.

Candles should be added to the menorah from right to left (like Hebrew writing).

The shammas candle is lit first. While holding the shammas candle, recite the following blessings. They are usually sung.



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## First Night Blessing

**Baruch atah Adonai**  
**Blessed are you, Lord**

**Eloheinu, melech ha'olam**  
**our God, sovereign of the universe**

**asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav**  
**Who has sanctified us with His commandments**

**v'tzivanu l'hadlik neir**  
**and commanded us to light the lights**

**shel Chanukah. (Amen)**  
**of Channukah. (Amen)**



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## Shehecheyanu

**Baruch atah Adonai  
Blessed are you, Lord**

**Eloheinu, melech ha'olam  
our God, sovereign of the universe**

**shehecheyanu v'kiyimanu, v'higi'anu  
who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled  
us to reach**

**laz'man hazeh. (Amen)  
this season (Amen)**

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## Blessing for the Hannukah Miracle

**Baruch atah Adonai  
Blessed are you, Lord**

**Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam  
our God, sovereign of the universe**

**she'asah nisim la'avoteinu  
who performed miracles for our ancestors**

**bayamim haheim  
in those days**

**baziman hazeh. (Amen)  
at this time. (Amen)**



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