

# Hanukkah Celebration



He (Yeshua/Jesus) Who is the Light of the world came and imparted these 'be attitudes'!

'Let there be LIGHT'!

You will remember that there are NINE 'blessed are's...' in the Beatitudes of Matthew 5 which we also know there are nine candles in the Hanukkiah!

This is something that I had not looked at before now.

The day on which the Light of heaven came to be the Light of men!

**John 10:22-23** “<sup>22</sup>At that time the Hanukkah came to be in Yerushalayim, and it was winter. <sup>23</sup>And Yehoshua (Yeshua/Jesus) was walking in the Set-apart Place, in the porch of Shelomoh (Solomon).”

Yeshua is the Light of heaven and the Light of the world...

May we Dedicate ourselves and our temples (our physical bodies), completely to Him...

May His precious blood come to cleanse our temples as we yield to His light...

May His light grow in us, even as each evening we light one more light... lighter... lighter... lighter!

May His word of impartation 'Blessed are those...' become a living reality in us... the word made flesh!

May you have a blessed and light filled Hanukkah!

Remember, we light the center, Servant candle first...

And then we use that Servant candle every night to light the other candles...

For He is the One Who is the Light and Who brings light to us...

All comes through Him!

If you do not have a Hanukkiah, just set out 'nine' lamps/candles and take the center, Servant candle, and light another one each night..... when you do this each night, then study His Word below by candlelight as the Light of heaven shines on the bread of His word...

Hanukkah is the time when the Light of Heaven was spoken into Miryam's (Mary's) womb...

Even as in creation, He hovered over the waters and said,  
'Let there be Light'... and Light came to be!  
Miryam said to Him, 'Be it to me according to Your word'...  
Again, He hovered over the waters of Miryam's womb and said,  
'Let there be Light'... and Light came to be!  
And it was good.

## **Hanukkah and the Beatitudes of Matthew 5**

As you light one of the eight candles each evening, pray one of the 'blessed are's...' of the Beatitudes of Matthew 5.

'Let this be your attitude!'

### **Intro**

The Hebrew word Hanukkah means "dedication." The roots of this name, and the Hanukkah holiday, come from the second century B.C.E. (Before the Common Era). Chafing under foreign domination, a band of Jews led by Mattathias took to the hills of Judea in open revolt against the Seleucid regime of Antiochus IV.

Mattathias' son Judah took charge of the rebellion after his father's death. He was given the nickname "the Maccabee" ("the hammer"). Antiochus sent thousands of well-trained and well-armed troops to the land of Israel to crush the rebellion. The Maccabees responded with a brilliant campaign of guerilla warfare, and succeeded in driving the foreigners from their land.

Jewish fighters entered Jerusalem in December, 164 B.C.E. They found the sacred Temple in shambles, defiled and desecrated by foreign soldiers. They cleansed the Temple and re-dedicated it on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev. They observed a feast of dedication for eight days in honor of their historic victory.

The contemporary observance of Hanukkah features the lighting of a hanukkiyah, a special Hanukkah menorah with eight branches and a ninth holder for the shamash, or helper candle. Popular legend connects this ritual with the tale of the cruse of pure oil that miraculously burned for eight days rather than one.

On the first night of Hanukkah, two candles are placed in the menorah. One serves as the shamash to be used for lighting the other candle. On each successive night, another candle is added to the menorah. By the time we reach the last night of Hanukkah, eight candles are glowing brightly in celebration of this beautiful festival.

### **History**

The eight-day Jewish celebration known as Hanukkah or Chanukah commemorates the rededication during the second century B.C. of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, where according to legend Jews had risen up against their Greek-Syrian oppressors in the Maccabean Revolt. Hanukkah, which means "dedication" in Hebrew, begins on the 25th of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar and usually falls in November or December. Often called the Festival of Lights, the holiday is celebrated with the lighting of the menorah, traditional foods, games and gifts.

The events that inspired the Hanukkah holiday took place during a particularly turbulent phase of Jewish history. Around 200 B.C., Judea—also known as the Land of Israel—came under the control of Antiochus III, the Seleucid king of Syria, who allowed the Jews who lived there to continue practicing

their religion. His son, Antiochus IV Epiphanes, proved less benevolent: Ancient sources recount that he outlawed the Jewish religion and ordered the Jews to worship Greek gods. In 168 B.C., his soldiers descended upon Jerusalem, massacring thousands of people and desecrating the city's holy Second Temple by erecting an altar to Zeus and sacrificing pigs within its sacred walls.

Led by the Jewish priest Mattathias and his five sons, a large-scale rebellion broke out against Antiochus and the Seleucid monarchy. When Mattathias died in 166 B.C., his son Judah, known as Judah Maccabee ("the Hammer"), took the helm; within two years the Jews had successfully driven the Syrians out of Jerusalem, relying largely on guerilla warfare tactics. Judah called on his followers to cleanse the Second Temple, rebuild its altar and light its menorah—the gold candelabrum whose seven branches represented knowledge and creation and were meant to be kept burning every night.

Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days and nights, starting on the 25th of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar (which is November-December on the Gregorian calendar). In Hebrew, the word "Hanukkah" means "dedication."

The holiday commemorates the rededication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem after the Jews' 165 B.C.E. victory over the Hellenist Syrians. Antiochus, the Greek King of Syria, outlawed Jewish rituals and ordered the Jews to worship Greek gods. In 168 B.C.E. the Jews' holy Temple was seized and dedicated to the worship of Zeus. Some Jews were afraid of the Greek soldiers and obeyed them, but most were angry and decided to fight back.

The fighting began in Modiin, a village not far from Jerusalem. A Greek officer and soldiers assembled the villagers, asking them to bow to an idol and eat the flesh of a pig, activities forbidden to Jews. The officer asked Mattathias, a Jewish High Priest, to take part in the ceremony. He refused, and another villager stepped forward and offered to do it instead. Mattathias became outraged, took out his sword and killed the man, then killed the officer. His five sons and the other villagers then attacked and killed the soldiers. Mattathias' family went into hiding in the nearby mountains, where many other Jews who wanted to fight the Greeks joined them. They attacked the Greek soldiers whenever possible.

About a year after the rebellion started, Mattathias died. Before his death, he put his brave son Judah Maccabee in charge of the growing army. After three years of fighting, the Jews defeated the Greek army, despite having fewer men and weapons.

Judah Maccabee and his soldiers went to the holy Temple, and were saddened that many things were missing or broken, including the golden menorah. They cleaned and repaired the Temple, and when they were finished, they decided to have a big dedication ceremony. For the celebration, the Maccabees wanted to light the menorah. They looked everywhere for oil, and found a small flask that contained only enough oil to light the menorah for one day. Miraculously, the oil lasted for eight days. This gave them enough time to obtain new oil to keep the menorah lit. Today Jews celebrate Hanukkah for eight days by lighting candles in a menorah every night, thus commemorating the eight-day miracle.

It's the season of celebrations, and, for many people, Hanukkah is at hand. This traditional Jewish holiday, also known as the Festival of Lights, is celebrated by millions around the world, and it's a great way to teach your child about celebrations in other cultures. Here's a guide to the light-filled festival of Hanukkah.

Like Christmas, Hanukkah celebrates and commemorates events which happened a long time ago in Jerusalem. Around 200 BCE, Jews in the land of Israel were under the rule of the Syrian king, but were still allowed to follow their own religious beliefs. However, a new king named Antiochus IV came to power. Antiochus forbade the Jews from practicing their religion, killed many of them, and desecrated the Temple in Jerusalem by placing an altar to the Greek god Zeus inside it.

Mattathias, a Jewish priest, objected to the cruel edicts of Antiochus, and along with his five sons Jochanan, Simeon, Eleazar, Jonathan, and Judah, he decided to fight back. Led by Judah (known as "The

Hammer”), they led the Jewish people in a revolt, using clever strategy and guerrilla-style warfare to defeat Antiochus’ much larger army.

Flush with victory, the Jews returned to find their Temple dirty and desecrated, with pots of consecrated olive oil broken everywhere. Working together, they cleaned and rededicated the Temple (“Hanukkah” means “dedication” in Hebrew). They lit the holy fire in the Temple menorah (a many-branched candelabrum and symbol of Judaism). However, although the flame was supposed to burn continuously, they were dismayed to find that there was only enough oil to fuel the flame for one day! Miraculously, the oil lasted for eight full days, and gave the Jews time to properly prepare more oil. This is often referred to as the miracle of Hanukkah.

Since then, Jews the world over have celebrated this occasion by lighting the Hanukkah candles in a menorah over the course of eight days. Starting with one candle on the first night, and ending with eight on the eighth, the ceremony involves the saying or singing of a blessing while the candles are lit by the helper candle, or “shamash.” Traditionally, the illuminated menorah is placed in windows so that passerby may be reminded of the Hanukkah story.

Since the holiday is, in some way, a celebration of oil, the practice of eating food fried in oil, such as potato latkes and jelly donuts, is a major part of the holiday. Also included in the festivities is the traditional game of dreidel and the giving of “gelt,” or money, to children.

No matter what holidays you and your family celebrate, there’s always room for learning in the fun. So introduce your child to new customs and cultures this holiday season by frying up a few latkes, spinning the dreidel, or just talking and learning about the meaning behind the holiday!

## **The Miracle**

According to the Talmud, one of Judaism’s most central texts, Judah Maccabee and the other Jews who took part in the rededication of the Second Temple witnessed what they believed to be a miracle. Even though there was only enough untainted olive oil to keep the menorah’s candles burning for a single day, the flames continued flickering for eight nights, leaving them time to find a fresh supply. This wondrous event inspired the Jewish sages to proclaim a yearly eight-day festival. (The first Book of the Maccabees tells another version of the story, describing an eight-day celebration that followed the rededication but making no reference to the miracle of the oil.)

# Hanukkah Reading



## The First Night of Hanukkah

The Revolt of Judas Maccabeus

**2 Maccabees 8:1-11**

**NOTE:** As you light the first candle which is the “*Servant*” candle for Hanukkah, pray **Matthew 5:3---**

**“Blessed are the poor in spirit, because theirs is the reign of the heavens.”**

Then

As you light the second candle for the first night of Hanukkah, pray **Matthew 5:4---**

**“Blessed are those who mourn, because they shall be comforted.”**

“<sup>1</sup>Meanwhile Judas, who was also called Maccabeus, and his companions secretly entered the villages and summoned their kindred and enlisted those who had continued in the Jewish faith, and so they gathered about six thousand. <sup>2</sup>They implored the Lord to look upon the people who were oppressed by all; and to have pity on the temple that had been profaned by the godless; <sup>3</sup>to have mercy on the city that was being destroyed and about to be leveled to the ground; to hearken to the blood that cried out to him; <sup>4</sup>to remember also the lawless destruction of the innocent babies and the blasphemies committed against his name; and to show his hatred of evil. <sup>5</sup>As soon as Maccabeus got his army organized, the Gentiles could not withstand him, for the wrath of the Lord had turned to mercy. <sup>6</sup>Coming without warning, he would set fire to towns and villages. He captured strategic positions and put to flight not a few of the enemy. <sup>7</sup>He found the nights most advantageous for such attacks. And talk of his valor spread everywhere. <sup>8</sup>When Philip saw that the man was gaining ground little by little, and that he was pushing ahead with more frequent successes, he wrote to Ptolemy, the governor of Coelesyria and Phoenicia, to come to the aid of the king’s government. <sup>9</sup>Then Ptolemy promptly appointed Nicanor son of Patroclus, one of the king’s chief Friends, and sent him, in command of no fewer than twenty thousand Gentiles of all nations, to wipe out the whole race of Judea. He associated with him Gorgias, a general and a man of experience in military service. <sup>10</sup>Nicanor determined to make up for the king the tribute due to the Romans, two thousand talents, by selling the captured Jews into slavery. <sup>11</sup>So he immediately sent to the towns on the seacoast, inviting them to buy Jewish slaves and promising to hand over ninety slaves for a talent, not expecting the judgment from the Almighty that was about to overtake him.”

## **Additional Readings**

**Genesis 1:1-5** “<sup>1</sup>In the beginning Elohim created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>And the earth came to be formless and empty, and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of Elohim was moving on the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>And Elohim said, “Let light come to be,” and light came to be. <sup>4</sup>And Elohim saw the light, that it was good. And Elohim separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>And Elohim called the light ‘day’ and the darkness He called ‘night.’ And there came to be evening and there came to be morning, the first day.”

**John 1:1-5, 9-14** “<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Elohim, and the Word was Elohim. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with Elohim. <sup>3</sup>All came to be through Him, and without Him not even one came to be that came to be. (See also **Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2, 11:3; 2 Peter 3:5 and Psalm 33:6.**) <sup>4</sup>In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>9</sup>He was the true Light, which enlightens every man, coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came to be through Him, and the world did not know Him. <sup>11</sup>He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup>But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of Elohim, to those believing in His Name, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the desire of flesh nor of the desire of man, but of Elohim. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and pitched His tent among us, and we saw His esteem, esteem as of an only brought-forth of a father, complete in favor and truth. (**NOTE:** An indication that His birth was during the Festival of Booths.)”

## **Meditation**

The earth was unformed and void, with darkness over the surface of the deep. . . . God said, “Let there be light;” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night....

God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate day from night; they shall serve as signs for the set times-the days and the years; and they shall serve as lights in the expanse of the sky to shine upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights, the greater light to dominate the day and the lesser light to dominate the night, and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the sky to shine upon the earth, to dominate the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that this was good. (**Genesis 1:2-5, 14-18**)



## The Second Night of Hanukkah

Preparation for Battle

2 Maccabees 8:12-20

**NOTE:** As you light the third candle for the second night of Hanukkah, pray **Matthew 5:5---**

**“Blessed are the meek, because they shall inherit the earth.”**

<sup>12</sup>Word came to Judas concerning Nicanor’s invasion; and when he told his companions of the arrival of the army, <sup>13</sup>those who were cowardly and distrustful of God’s justice ran off and got away. <sup>14</sup>Others sold all their remaining property, and at the same time implored the Lord to rescue those who had been sold by the ungodly Nicanor before he ever met them, <sup>15</sup>if not for their own sake, then for the sake of the covenants made with their ancestors, and because he had called them by his holy and glorious name. <sup>16</sup>But Maccabeus gathered his forces together, to the number six thousand, and exhorted them not to be frightened by the enemy and not to fear the great multitude of Gentiles who were wickedly coming against them, but to fight nobly, <sup>17</sup>keeping before their eyes the lawless outrage that the Gentiles had committed against the holy place, and the torture of the derided city, and besides, the overthrow of their ancestral way of life. <sup>18</sup>”For they trust to arms and acts of daring,” he said, “but we trust in the Almighty God, who is able with a single nod to strike down those who are coming against us, and even, if necessary, the whole world. <sup>19</sup>Moreover, he told them of the occasions when help came to their ancestors; how, in the time of Sennacherib, when one hundred eighty-five thousand perished, <sup>20</sup>and the time of the battle against the Galatians that took place in Babylonia, when eight thousand Jews fought along with four thousand Macedonians; yet when the Macedonians were hard pressed, the eight thousand, by the help that came to them from heaven, destroyed one hundred twenty thousand Galatians and took a great amount of booty.”

### Additional Readings

**Exodus 33:20** “But He said, ‘You are unable to see My face, for no man does see Me and live.’ “

**John 1:18** “No one has ever seen Elohim. The only brought-forth Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He did declare.” (reveal, unfold... He is the face of Elohim, Elohim Paniym... He is the One who appeared to men)

**John 14:9** “Yehoshua said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father, and how do you say, ‘Show us the Father’?’ “

**Genesis 12:7** “And יהוה (Yahweh) appeared to Abram and said, ‘To your seed I give this land.’ And he built there an altar to יהוה (Yahweh), who had appeared to him.”

**Genesis 15:1, 5-11** “<sup>1</sup>After these events the word of יהוה (Yahweh) came to Abram in a vision, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your reward is exceedingly great. <sup>5</sup>And He brought him outside and said, ‘Look now toward the heavens, and count the stars if you are able to count them.’ And He said to him, ‘So are your seed.’ <sup>6</sup>And he believed in יהוה (Yahweh), and He reckoned it to him for righteousness. <sup>7</sup>And He said to him, ‘I am יהוה (Yahweh), who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans,

to give you this land to inherit it.”<sup>8</sup> And he said, “Master יהוה (Yahweh), whereby do I know that I possess it?”<sup>9</sup> And He said to him, “Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, and a three-year-old female goat, and a three-year-old ram, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”<sup>10</sup> And he took all these to Him and cut them in the middle, and placed each half opposite the other, but he did not cut the birds.<sup>11</sup> And the birds of prey came down on the carcasses, and Abram drove them away.” (His word says that we who are in Messiah are also the ‘seed of Abraham’... and as such, we also shoo away the birds of prey that try to come to devour the covenant... in Him we cry ‘YeSHOOah’ and watch the birds of prey scatter!)

**Genesis 17:1-5** “<sup>1</sup>And it came to be when Abram was ninety-nine years old, that יהוה (Yahweh) appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Ėl Shaddai – walk before Me and be perfect (Messiah gives the same command in **Matthew 5:48**).<sup>2</sup> And I give My covenant between Me and you, and shall greatly increase you.”<sup>3</sup> And Abram fell on his face, and Elohim spoke with him, saying,<sup>4</sup> “As for Me, look, My covenant is with you, and you shall become a father of many nations.<sup>5</sup> And no longer is your name called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, because I shall make you a father of many nations.” “

**Genesis 18:1-3** “<sup>1</sup>And יהוה (Yahweh) appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamrē, while he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day.<sup>2</sup> So he lifted his eyes and looked, and saw three men standing opposite him. And when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground,<sup>3</sup> and said, “יהוה (Yahweh), if I have now found favor in Your eyes, please do not pass Your servant by.” “

**Genesis 26:1-5** “<sup>1</sup>And there was a scarcity of food in the land, besides the first scarcity of food which was in the days of Abraham. And Yitshaq went to Abimelek, sovereign of the Philistines, in Gerar.<sup>2</sup> And יהוה (Yahweh) appeared to him and said, “Do not go down to Mitsrayim, live in the land which I command you.<sup>3</sup>” Sojourn in this land. And I shall be with you and bless you, for I give all these lands to you and your seed. And I shall establish the oath which I swore to Abraham your father.<sup>4</sup>” And I shall increase your seed like the stars of the heavens, and I shall give all these lands to your seed. And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed,<sup>5</sup> because Abraham obeyed My voice and guarded My Charge: My commands, My laws, and My Torot.” “

**Genesis 26:24** “And יהוה (Yahweh) appeared to him the same night and said, “I am the Elohim of your father Abraham. Do not fear, for I am with you, and shall bless you and increase your seed for My servant Abraham’s sake.”

## **Meditation**

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who present darkness as light and light as darkness, who present bitter as sweet and sweet as bitter!

Woe to those who are so wise--in their own opinion; So clever--in their own judgment!

Woe to those who are so heroic--its drinkers of wine, and so valiant--its mixers of drink!

Who vindicate him who is in the wrong in return for a bribe, and withhold vindication from him who is right.

Assuredly, as straw is consumed by a tongue of fire and hay shrivels as it burns, their stock shall become like rot, and their buds shall blow away like dust.

For they have rejected the instruction of the Lord of Hosts, spurned the word of the Holy One of Israel (**Isaiah 5:20-24**)



## The Third Night of Hanukkah

Judas defeats Nicanor

2 Maccabees 8:21-29

**NOTE:** As you light the fourth candle for the third night of Hanukkah, pray **Matthew 5:6---**

**“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, because they shall be filled.”**

<sup>21</sup>With these words he filled them with courage and made them ready to die for their laws and their country; then he divided his army into four parts. <sup>22</sup>He appointed his brothers also, Simon and Joseph and Jonathan, each to command a division, putting fifteen hundred men under each. <sup>23</sup>Besides, he appointed Eleazar to read aloud † from the holy book, and gave the watchword, “The help of God;” then, leading the first division himself, he joined battle with Nicanor.

<sup>24</sup>With the Almighty as their ally, they killed more than nine thousand of the enemy, and wounded and disabled most of Nicanor’s army, and forced them all to flee. <sup>25</sup>They captured the money of those who had come to buy them as slaves. After pursuing them for some distance, they were obliged to return because the hour was late. <sup>26</sup>It was the day before the sabbath, and for that reason they did not continue their pursuit. <sup>27</sup>When they had collected the arms of the enemy and stripped them of their spoils, they kept the sabbath, giving great praise and thanks to the Lord, who had preserved them for that day and allotted it to them as the beginning of mercy. <sup>28</sup>After the sabbath they gave some of the spoils to those who had been tortured and to the widows and orphans, and distributed the rest among themselves and their children. <sup>29</sup>When they had done this, they made common supplication and implored the merciful Lord to be wholly reconciled with his servants.”

### Additional Readings

**Exodus 33:20** “But He said, ‘You are unable to see My face, for no man does see Me and live.’ “

**John 1:18** “No one has ever seen Elohim. The only brought-forth Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He did declare. (reveal, unfold... He is the face of Elohim, Elohim Paniym)

**John 14:9** “Yahshua said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father, and how do you say, ‘Show us the Father’? “ “

**Genesis 28:11-15** <sup>11</sup>And he (Jacob) came upon a place and stopped over for the night, for the sun had set. And he (Jacob) took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. <sup>12</sup>And he dreamed and saw a ladder set up on the earth, and its top reached to the heavens, and saw messengers of Elohim going up and coming down on it. <sup>13</sup>And see, יהוה (Yahweh) stood above it and said, ‘I am יהוה (Yahweh) Elohim of Abraham your father and the Elohim of Yitshaq (Isaac). The land on which you are lying, I give it to you and your seed. <sup>14</sup>And your seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and you shall break forth to the west and to the east, to the north and the south. And all the clans of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your seed. <sup>15</sup>And see, I am with you and shall guard you

wherever you go, and shall bring you back to this land. For I am not going to leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.’ “

**John 1:49-51** “<sup>49</sup>Nethaně’l answered and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, You are the Son of Elohim! You are the Sovereign of Yisra’ěl!’ <sup>50</sup>Yahshua answered and said to him, ‘Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? Greater than that you shall see.’ <sup>51</sup>And He said to him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, from now on you shall see the heaven opened, and the messengers of Elohim ascending and descending upon the Son of Adam.’ “

## **Meditation**

They have eyes, but cannot see; ears, but cannot hear.

They are rebels against the light; they are strangers to its ways, and do not stay in its path.

For darkness is morning to all of them; for they are friends with the terrors of darkness.

Indeed the light of the wicked fails; the flame of his fire does not shine.

The light in his tent darkens; his lamp fails him.

They grope without light in the darkness; He makes them wander as if drunk.

And I will banish them from the sound of mirth and gladness, the voice of bridegroom and bride, and the sound of the hand-mill and the light of the lamp.

All the lights that shine in the sky I will darken above you; and I will bring darkness upon your land-- declares the Lord God.

Listen, you who are deaf; you blind ones; look up and see! (**Psalms 115:5-6; Job 24:13, 17; Job 18:5-6; 12:25; Jeremiah 25:10; Ezekiel 32:8; Isaiah 42:18**)



## The Fourth Night of Hanukkah

Judas Defeats Timothy and Bacchides

2 Maccabees 8:30-36

**NOTE:** As you light the fifth candle for the fourth night of Hanukkah, pray **Matthew 5:7---**

**“Blessed are the compassionate, because they shall obtain compassion.”**

<sup>30</sup>In encounters with the forces of Timothy and Bacchides they killed more than twenty thousand of them and got possession of some exceedingly high strongholds, and they divided a very large amount of plunder, giving to those who had been tortured and to the orphans and widows, and also to the aged, shares equal to their own. <sup>31</sup>They collected the arms of the enemy, and carefully stored all of them in strategic places; the rest of the spoils they carried to Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup>They killed the commander of Timothy’s forces, a most wicked man, and one who had greatly troubled the Jews. <sup>33</sup>While they were celebrating the victory in the city of their ancestors, they burned those who had set fire to the sacred gates, Callisthenes and some others, who had fled into one little house; so these received the proper reward for their impiety.

<sup>34</sup>The thrice-accursed Nicanor, who had brought the thousand merchants to buy the Jews, <sup>35</sup>having been humbled with the help of the Lord by opponents whom he regarded as of the least account, took off his splendid uniform and made his way alone like a runaway slave across the country until he reached Antioch, having succeeded chiefly in the destruction of his own army! <sup>36</sup>So he who had undertaken to secure tribute for the Romans by the capture of the people of Jerusalem proclaimed that the Jews had a Defender, and that therefore the Jews were invulnerable, because they followed the laws ordained by him.”

### Additional Readings

**Exodus 33:20** “But He said, ‘You are unable to see My face, for no man does see Me and live.’ “

**John 1:18** “No one has ever seen Elohim. The only brought-forth Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He did declare (reveal, unfold... He is the face of Elohim, Elohim Paniym).”

**John 14:9** “Yahshua said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father, and how do you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ “

**Genesis 32:24-31** “<sup>24</sup>And Ya’aqob (Jacob) was left alone. And a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. <sup>25</sup>And when He saw that He did not overcome him, He touched the socket of his hip. And the socket of Ya’aqob’s hip was dislocated as He wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup>And He said, ‘Let Me go, for the day breaks.’ But he said, ‘I am not letting You go until You have blessed me!’ <sup>27</sup>So He asked him, ‘What is your name?’ And he said, ‘Ya’aqob.’ <sup>28</sup>And He said, ‘Your name is no longer called Ya’aqob, but Yisra’el (Yisra’el means “to strive with Ĕl, to overcome with Ĕl, (then) to rule with Ĕl), because you have striven with Elohim and with men, and have overcome.’ <sup>29</sup>And Ya’aqob asked Him, saying, ‘Please let me know Your Name.’ And He said, ‘Why do you ask about My Name?’ And He blessed him there. <sup>30</sup>And Ya’aqob called the name of the place Peni’el, ‘For I have seen Elohim face to

face, and my life is preserved.’<sup>31</sup> And the sun rose on him as he passed over Penu’ël, and he limped on his hip.”

**Malachi 4:2** “But to you who fear My Name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings. And you shall go out and leap for joy like calves from the stall.” (The word for ‘sun’ is ‘shemesh’, which has the ‘root’ for ‘Servant’... the middle branch for the lamp, which is named ‘shemesh.’)

### **Meditation**

Thus said God the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what it brings forth, who gave breath to the people upon it and life to those who walk thereon:

I the Lord, in My grace, have summoned you, and I have taken you by the hand I created you, and appointed you a covenant people, a light to the nations -- opening eyes deprived of light, rescuing prisoners from confinement, from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

I form light and create darkness, I make peace and create woe -- I the Lord do all these things.

I will lead the blind by a road they did not know, and I will make them walk by paths they never knew. I will turn darkness before them into light, rough places into level ground. These are promises -- I will keep them without fail. (**Isaiah 42:5-7; 45:7; 42:16**)



## The Fifth Night of Hanukkah

Last Campaign of Antiochus Epiphanes  
2 Maccabees 9:1-12

**NOTE:** As you light the sixth candle for the fifth night of Hanukkah, pray **Matthew 5:8**---

**“Blessed are the clean in heart, because they shall see Elohim.”**

<sup>1</sup>About that time, as it happened, Antiochus had retreated in disorder from the region of Persia. <sup>2</sup>He had entered the city called Persepolis and attempted to rob the temples and control the city. Therefore the people rushed to the rescue with arms, and Antiochus and his army were defeated, with the result that Antiochus was put to flight by the inhabitants and beat a shameful retreat. <sup>3</sup>While he was in Ecbatana, news came to him of what had happened to Nicanor and the forces of Timothy. <sup>4</sup>Transported with rage, he conceived the idea of turning upon the Jews the injury done by those who had put him to flight; so he ordered his charioteer to drive without stopping until he completed the journey. But the judgment of heaven rode with him! For in his arrogance he said, “When I get there I will make Jerusalem a cemetery of Jews.”

<sup>5</sup>But the all-seeing Lord, the God of Israel, struck him with an incurable and invisible blow. As soon as he stopped speaking he was seized with a pain in his bowels, for which there was no relief, and with sharp internal tortures— <sup>6</sup>and that very justly, for he had tortured the bowels of others with many and strange inflictions. <sup>7</sup>Yet he did not in any way stop his insolence, but was even more filled with arrogance, breathing fire in his rage against the Jews, and giving orders to drive even faster. And so it came about that he fell out of his chariot as it was rushing along, and the fall was so hard as to torture every limb of his body. <sup>8</sup>Thus he who only a little while before had thought in his superhuman arrogance that he could command the waves of the sea, and had imagined that he could weigh the high mountains in a balance, was brought down to earth and carried in a litter, making the power of God manifest to all. <sup>9</sup>And so the ungodly man’s body swarmed with worms, and while he was still living in anguish and pain, his flesh rotted away, and because of the stench the whole army felt revulsion at his decay. <sup>10</sup>Because of his intolerable stench no one was able to carry the man who a little while before had thought that he could touch the stars of heaven. <sup>11</sup>Then it was that, broken in spirit, he began to lose much of his arrogance and to come to his senses under the scourge of God, for he was tortured with pain every moment. <sup>12</sup>And when he could not endure his own stench, he uttered these words, “It is right to be subject to God; mortals should not think that they are equal to God.” “

### Additional Readings

**Exodus 33:20** “But He said, ‘You are unable to see My face, for no man does see Me and live.’ “

**John 1:18** “No one has ever seen Elohim. The only brought-forth Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He did declare.” (reveal, unfold... He is the face of Elohim, Elohim Paniym)

**John 14:9** “Yahshua said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father, and how do you say, ‘Show us the Father’?’ “

**Exodus 3:1-6** “<sup>1</sup>And Mosheh was shepherding the flock of Yithro his father-in-law, the priest of Midyan. And he led the flock to the back of the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of Elohim. <sup>2</sup>And Messenger **יהוה** (in Hebrew: Malak YHWH) appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. And he looked and saw the bush burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. <sup>3</sup>And Mosheh said, ‘Let me turn aside now, and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.’ <sup>4</sup>And **יהוה** (Yahweh) saw that he turned aside to see, and Elohim called to him from the midst of the bush and said, ‘Mosheh! Mosheh!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ <sup>5</sup>And He said, ‘Do not come near here. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is set-apart ground.’ <sup>6</sup>And He said, ‘I am the Elohim of your father, the Elohim of Abraham, the Elohim of Yitshaq, and the Elohim of Ya‘aqob.’ And Mosheh hid his face, for he was afraid to look at Elohim.”

**Revelation 1:12-20** “<sup>12</sup>And I (John) turned to see the voice which spoke with me. And having turned, I saw sevenfold golden lamps, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the sevenfold lampstand One like the Son of Adam, dressed in a robe down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. <sup>14</sup>And His head and hair were white as white wool, as snow, and His eyes as a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup>and His feet like burnished brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters. <sup>16</sup>And in His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His face was as the sun shining in its strength. <sup>17</sup>And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead, and He placed His right hand on me, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, I am the First and the Last, <sup>18</sup>and the living One. And I became dead, and see, I am living forever and ever. Amēn. And I possess the keys of the grave and of death. <sup>19</sup>Write therefore what you have seen, both what is now and what shall take place after these: <sup>20</sup>The secret of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the sevenfold golden lampstand: The seven stars are messengers of the seven assemblies, and the sevenfold lampstand which you saw are seven assemblies.’ “

## **Meditation**

Look at me, answer me, O Lord, my God!

Give light to my eyes lest I sleep the sleep of death.

Darkness is not dark for You; night is as light as day; darkness and light are the same.

Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of Your servant, and to his supplications, and cause Your face to shine upon Your sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord’s sake.

Send forth Your light and Your truth; they will lead me; they will bring me to Your holy mountain, to Your dwelling-place.

With You is the fountain of life; by Your light do we see light.

It is You who light my lamp; the Lord, my God, light up my darkness.

The soul of a human is the lamp of the Lord, searching all the innermost parts.

For You have saved me from death, my foot from stumbling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.

Truly, God does all these things, two, three times to a person, to bring him back from the Pit, that he may bask in the light of life (**Psalms 13:4; 139:12; Daniel 9:17; Psalms 43:3; 36:10; 18:29; Proverbs 20:27; Psalms 50:14; Job 33:29-30**)



## Sixth Night of Hanukkah

### Antiochus Makes a Promise to YHWH

### 2 Maccabees 9:13-18

**NOTE:** As you light the seventh candle for the sixth night of Hanukkah, pray **Matthew 5:9---**

**“Blessed are the peacemakers, because they shall be called sons of Elohim.”**

“<sup>13</sup>Then the abominable fellow made a vow to the Lord, who would no longer have mercy on him, stating <sup>14</sup>that the holy city, which he was hurrying to level to the ground and to make a cemetery, he was now declaring to be free; <sup>15</sup>and the Jews, whom he had not considered worth burying but had planned to throw out with their children for the wild animals and for the birds to eat, he would make, all of them, equal to citizens of Athens; <sup>16</sup>and the holy sanctuary, which he had formerly plundered, he would adorn with the finest offerings; and all the holy vessels he would give back, many times over; and the expenses incurred for the sacrifices he would provide from his own revenues; <sup>17</sup>and in addition to all this he also would become a Jew and would visit every inhabited place to proclaim the power of God. <sup>18</sup>But when his sufferings did not in any way abate, for the judgment of God had justly come upon him, he gave up all hope for himself and wrote to the Jews the following letter, in the form of a supplication. This was its content:”

### Additional Readings

**Genesis 1:1-5** “<sup>1</sup>In the beginning Elohim created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>And the earth came to be formless and empty, and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of Elohim was moving on the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>And Elohim said, ‘Let light come to be,’ and light came to be. <sup>4</sup>And Elohim saw the light, that it was good. And Elohim separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>And Elohim called the light ‘day’ and the darkness He called ‘night.’ And there came to be evening and there came to be morning, the first day.”

**Luke 1:26-38** “<sup>26</sup>And in the sixth month the messenger Gabri’el was sent by Elohim to a city of Galil named Natsareth, <sup>27</sup>to a maiden engaged to a man whose name was Yosēph (Joseph), of the house of David. And the maiden’s name was Miryam. <sup>28</sup>And the messenger, coming to her, said, ‘Greetings, favored one, the Master is with you. Blessed are you among women!’ <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly disturbed at his word, and wondered what kind of greeting this was. <sup>30</sup>And the messenger said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Miryam (Mary), for you have found favor with Elohim. <sup>31</sup>And see, you shall conceive in your womb, and shall give birth to a Son, and call His Name Yahshua. <sup>32</sup>He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High. And יהוה (Yahweh) Elohim shall give Him the throne of His father David. <sup>33</sup>And He shall reign over the house of Ya’aqob forever, and there shall be no end to His reign.’ (Verses 32 and 33 confirm the prophecies Psalm 2, Psalm 89:14-34, Isaiah 9:7, Isaiah 16:5, Jeremiah 23:3-6, Jeremiah 30:9, Ezekiel 37:24, Daniel 2:44, Daniel 7:18-27, Micah 5:2-4, Acts 1:6-7, Revelation 11:15.) <sup>34</sup>And Miryam said to the messenger, ‘How shall this be, since I do not know a man?’ <sup>35</sup>And the messenger answering, said to her, ‘The Set-apart Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow you. And for that reason the Set-apart One born of you shall be called: Son of Elohim. <sup>36</sup>And see, Elisheba your relative, she has also conceived a son in her old age. And this is now

the sixth month to her who was called barren, <sup>37</sup>because with Elohim no matter shall be impossible.’  
<sup>38</sup>And Miryam said, ‘See the female servant of יהוה (Yahweh)! Let it be to me according to your word.’  
And the messenger went away from her.”

## **Meditation**

The Lord is my light and my help, whom shall I fear?

Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord, my God, You are very great; You are clothed in glory and majesty, wrapped in a robe of light; You spread the heavens like a tent cloth.

Your word is a lamp to my feet, a light for my path.

The precepts of the Lord are just, rejoicing in His heart, the instruction of the Lord is lucid, giving light to my eyes.

For the commandment is a lamp, and the Torah is a light.

Enlighten our eyes in Your Torah, attach our heart to Your commandments, unite our heart to love and revere Your name. (**Psalms 27:1; 104:1-2; 119:105; 19:9; Proverbs 6:23**; traditional prayer book)



## Seventh Night of Hanukkah

Antiochus's Letter and Death

2 Maccabees 9:19-29

**NOTE:** As you light the eighth candle for the seventh night of Hanukkah, pray

**Matthew 5:10---**

**“Blessed are those persecuted for righteousness’ sake, because theirs is the reign of the heavens.”**

<sup>19</sup>To his worthy Jewish citizens, Antiochus their king and general sends hearty greetings and good wishes for their health and prosperity. <sup>20</sup>If you and your children are well and your affairs are as you wish, I am glad. As my hope is in heaven, <sup>21</sup>I remember with affection your esteem and goodwill. On my way back from the region of Persia I suffered an annoying illness, and I have deemed it necessary to take thought for the general security of all. <sup>22</sup>I do not despair of my condition, for I have good hope of recovering from my illness, <sup>23</sup>but I observed that my father, on the occasions when he made expeditions into the upper country, appointed his successor, <sup>24</sup>so that, if anything unexpected happened or any unwelcome news came, the people throughout the realm would not be troubled, for they would know to whom the government was left. <sup>25</sup>Moreover, I understand how the princes along the borders and the neighbors of my kingdom keep watching for opportunities and waiting to see what will happen. So I have appointed my son Antiochus to be king, whom I have often entrusted and commended to most of you when I hurried off to the upper provinces; and I have written to him what is written here. <sup>26</sup>I therefore urge and beg you to remember the public and private services rendered to you and to maintain your present goodwill, each of you, toward me and my son. <sup>27</sup>For I am sure that he will follow my policy and will treat you with moderation and kindness. <sup>28</sup>So the murderer and blasphemer, having endured the more intense suffering, such as he had inflicted on others, came to the end of his life by a most pitiable fate, among the mountains in a strange land. <sup>29</sup>And Philip, one of his courtiers, took his body home; then, fearing the son of Antiochus, he withdrew to Ptolemy Philometor in Egypt.”

### Additional Readings

**Genesis 1:1-5** <sup>1</sup>“In the beginning Elohim created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>And the earth came to be formless and empty, and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of Elohim was moving on the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>And Elohim said, ‘Let light come to be,’ and light came to be. <sup>4</sup>And Elohim saw the light, that it was good. And Elohim separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>And Elohim called the light ‘day’ and the darkness He called ‘night.’ And there came to be evening and there came to be morning, the first day.”

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11** <sup>1</sup>“Now, brothers, as to the times and the seasons, you do not need to be written to. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of יהוה (Yahweh) comes as a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then suddenly destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they shall not escape. <sup>4</sup>But you, brothers, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. <sup>5</sup>For you are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So, then, we should not sleep, as others do, but we should watch and be sober. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But we who are of the day

should be sober, putting on the breastplate of belief and love, and as a helmet the expectation of deliverance. <sup>9</sup>Because Elohim did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain deliverance through our Master Yahshua Messiah, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that we, whether awake or asleep, should live together with Him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, as indeed you do.”

## **Meditation**

For the path of the righteous is as the light of dawn, that shines brighter and brighter until full day.

Light is sown for the righteous, radiance for the upright.

O you righteous, rejoice in the Lord and acclaim His holy name.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a brilliant light; on those who dwelt in a land of gloom light has dawned.

For all the Israelites enjoyed light in their dwellings.

Arise, shine, for your light has dawned; the Presence of the Lord has shone upon you!

O House of Jacob! Come, let us walk by the light of the Lord. (**Proverbs 4:18; Psalms 97:11-12; Isaiah 9:1; Exodus 10 23; Isaiah 60 o; 2:5**)



## **Eighth Night of Hanukkah**

Purification of the Temple

**2 Maccabees 10:1-9**

**NOTE:** As you light the ninth candle for the eighth night of Hanukkah, pray **Matthew 5:11---**

**“Blessed are you when they reproach and persecute you, and falsely say every wicked word against you, for My sake.”**

<sup>1</sup>Now Maccabeus and his followers, the Lord leading them on, recovered the temple and the city; <sup>2</sup>they tore down the altars that had been built in the public square by the foreigners, and also destroyed the sacred precincts. <sup>3</sup>They purified the sanctuary, and made another altar of sacrifice; then, striking fire out of flint, they offered sacrifices, after a lapse of two years, and they offered incense and lighted lamps and set out the bread of the Presence. <sup>4</sup>When they had done this, they fell prostrate and implored the Lord that they might never again fall into such misfortunes, but that, if they should ever sin, they might be disciplined by him with forbearance and not be handed over to blasphemous and barbarous nations. <sup>5</sup>It happened that on the same day on which the sanctuary had been profaned by the foreigners, the purification of the sanctuary took place, that is, on the twenty-fifth day of the same month, which was Chislev. <sup>6</sup>They celebrated it for eight days with rejoicing, in the manner of the festival of booths, remembering how not long before, during the festival of booths, they had been wandering in the mountains and caves like wild animals. <sup>7</sup>Therefore, carrying ivy-wreathed wands and beautiful branches and also fronds of palm, they offered hymns of thanksgiving to him who had given success to the purifying of his own holy place. <sup>8</sup>They decreed by public edict, ratified by vote, that the whole nation of the Jews should observe these days every year. <sup>9</sup>Such then was the end of Antiochus, who was called Epiphanes.”

### **Additional Readings**

**Matthew 5:1-20** <sup>1</sup>But when He saw the crowds, He went up on a mountain. And when He was seated His taught ones came to Him. <sup>2</sup>And having opened His mouth, He was teaching them, saying, <sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, because theirs is the reign of the heavens. <sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, because they shall be comforted. <sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, because they shall inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (See also Isaiah 55:1-2, Matthew 4:4, John 6:48-51), because they shall be filled. <sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the compassionate, because they shall obtain compassion. <sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the clean/pure in heart (See also Psalm 24:3-4), because they shall see Elohim. <sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, because they shall be called sons of Elohim. <sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those persecuted for righteousness’ (See also 1 Peter 3:14) sake, because theirs is the reign of the heavens. <sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when they reproach and persecute you, and falsely say every wicked word against you, for My sake. <sup>12</sup>“Rejoice and be glad, because your reward in the heavens is great. For in this way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. <sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt becomes tasteless, how shall it be seasoned? For it is no longer of any use but to be thrown out and to be trodden down by men. <sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. It is impossible for a city to be hidden on a mountain. <sup>15</sup>“Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it shines to all those in the house. <sup>16</sup>“Let

your light so shine before men, so that they see your good works and praise your Father who is in the heavens. <sup>17</sup>”Do not think that I came to destroy the Torah or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to complete. Footnote: <sup>1</sup>The Law and the Prophets is a term used for the pre-Messianic Scriptures. <sup>18</sup>”For truly, I say to you, till the heaven and the earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall by no means pass from the Torah till all be done (See also Luke 16:17). <sup>19</sup>”Whoever, then, breaks one of the least of these commands, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the reign of the heavens; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the reign of the heavens. <sup>20</sup>”For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees (See also Matthew 15:3-9, Mark 7:7-13, John 7:19, Acts 7:53, Romans 2:23-27, Galatians 6:13), you shall by no means enter into the reign of the heavens.



**“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.**

**And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”**

Yohanan/John 1:4-5

## **Meditation**

Behold, there will come a time!

And the light of the moon shall become like the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall become sevenfold, like the light of the seven days, when the Lord binds up His people’s wounds and heals the injuries it has suffered.

In that day, there shall be neither sunlight nor cold moonlight but there shall be a continuous day, of neither day nor night, and there shall be light at evening time.

No longer shall you need the sun for light by day nor the shining of the moon for radiance by night; for the Lord shall be your light everlasting, your God shall be your glory. Your sun shall set no more, your moon no more withdraw; for the Lord shall be a light to you forever.

Cause a new light to shine upon Zion and soon may all of us be worthy to enjoy its light. (**Isaiah 30:26; Zechariah 14:6-7; Isaiah 60:19-20**; traditional prayer book)