

Messianic Candle Lighting Ceremony For Chanukah

(Traditional Blessings)

Blessed are You O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with Your commandments, and commanded us to light Chanukkah lights.

Baruch Ata Adonai Elohaynu Melech ha-olam, ah-sheer kid-shah-nu b'mitz-voh-tay v'tzee-vah-nu l'had-leek ner shel Chanukkah.

Blessed are You O Lord our God, King of the universe, who performed miracles for our fathers in those days at this season.

Baruch Ata Adonai Elohaynu Melech ha-olam, she-ah-sah ni-seem la-ah-vo-tay-nu v'lee-mo-tay-nu ba-ya-meem ha-hem baz-man ha-zeh.

(Messianic Israel version)

Blessed are You O YHVH our Elohim, King of the universe, who has given us holidays, customs, and times of happiness, to increase the knowledge of YHVH and to build us up in our most holy faith.

Baruch Ata YHVH Elohaynu Melech ha-olam, ah-sheer nah-tan lah-nu cha-gim, min-ha-gim, oo-mo-ah-dim l'sim-cha, l'hag-deel et da-at YHVH, v'liv-not oh-tah-nu b'emunah ki-do-shah v'na-ah-lah.

Blessed are You O YHVH our Elohim, King of the universe, who performed miracles for our fathers in those days at this season.

Baruch Ata YHVH Elohaynu Melech ha-olam, she-ah-sah ni-seem la-ah-vo-tay-nu v'lee-mo-tay-nu ba-ya-meem ha-hem baz-man ha-zeh.

(On the first night you can add):

Blessed are You O YHVH our Elohim, King of the universe, who granted us life, sustained us and permitted us to reach this season.

Baruch Ata YHVH Elohaynu Melech ha-olam, she-he-che-yanu v'kee-ma-nu v'hi-gee-yah-nu laz-man ha-zeh.

Lighting the Lights

For the eight nights of Chanukah you will need a Chanukiah (9-branch menorah) and a total of 44 candles that burn for at least one hour. The Shammash candle is placed in the holder that is higher than or set apart from the other eight holders. The Shammash candle is used to light the others. Traditionally, the daily candles are added from right to left. The first candle is placed on the far right side of the Chanukiah, and the second one placed directly to the left of the first candle. Lighting the candles starts from the left and moves to the right. Thus the first candle that is lit from the shammash is the new candle added for that day. The candles are lit at nightfall (about 45 minutes to 1 hour after sunset) and placed in a window as a witness to the nations about the miracles of Chanukah. The candles are left to burn down completely (you may want to place a mat under the Chanukiah to protect your table surface from any wax drips) and all new candles are lit each night. On Erev Shabbat, the Chanukah candles are lit before the Shabbat candles are lit (18 minutes before sundown).

Shamash (Servant) Candle

Messiah Yeshua stated in Mark 10:44-45: Whoever wishes to be first among you shall be the servant of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.



First Candle

Genesis 1:3-4 describes the creation of the first light: Elohim said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And Elohim saw that the light was good; and Elohim separated the light from the darkness.



Second Candle

Exodus 13:21-22 reveals that YHVH is the source of Israel's light: And YHVH was going before them in a pillar of cloud by day to lead them on the way, and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.



Third Candle

King David reminds us in Psalm 27:1 and Psalm 18:28 that YHVH Himself is the source of our own individual light: YHVH is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? YHVH is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread? For You light my lamp; YHVH my Elohim illumines my darkness.



Fourth Candle

Psalm 119:105 and Psalm 119:130 describe the light that comes from YHVH's Word: Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path. The unfolding of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.



Fifth Candle

Messiah Yeshua is the greatest light of all: In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it (John 1:4-5). As Messiah Yeshua was in the Temple in Jerusalem watching the illuminating lights, He declared: "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12). Aged Simeon was promised by YHVH that he would not die until he saw Israel's Messiah. When he saw Yeshua as an infant in the Temple, he knew that this One was the Light of Israel and the Nations.

Simeon declared: "My eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light of revelation to the gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel" (Luke 2:30-32). For Elohim, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of Elohim in the face of Messiah (2 Corinthians 4:6).



Sixth Candle

After we come to know Messiah, we are to be a source of light for the world. King Messiah tells us in Matthew 5:14-16: You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.



Seventh Candle

The prophet Isaiah speaks of the future glory of a restored Israel in Isaiah 60:1-3: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of YHVH has risen upon you... And nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.



Eighth Candle

Revelation 21:22-27 give us a description of our glorious eternal dwelling place in the New Jerusalem: And I saw no temple in it, for YHVH Elohim, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of YHVH has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. And the nations shall walk by its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it. And in the daytime (for there shall be no night there) its gates shall never be closed; and they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; and nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.