

[F-9] Hanukkah [חנוכה]

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Notes from: Chabad.org

Chanukah is the Jewish eight-day, wintertime “festival of lights,” celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting, special prayers and fried foods.

The Hebrew word **Chanukah** means “**dedication**,” and is thus named because it celebrates the rededication of the Holy Temple (as you’ll read below). Also spelled Hanukkah (or variations of that spelling), the Hebrew word is actually pronounced with a guttural, “kh” sound, kha-nu-kah, not tcha-new-kah.

When Is Chanukah?

Chanukah begins on the eve of Kislev 25 and continues for eight days. On the civil calendar, it generally coincides with the month of December. Chanukah 2021 runs from Nov. 28-Dec. 6

In the second century BCE, the Holy Land was ruled by the Seleucids (Syrian-Greeks), who tried to force the people of Israel to accept Greek culture and beliefs instead of mitzvah observance and belief in G-d. Against all odds, a small band of faithful but poorly armed Jews, led by Judah the Maccabee, defeated one of the mightiest armies on earth, drove the Greeks from the land, reclaimed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and rededicated it to the service of G-d [in 165 BCE].

When they sought to light the Temple's Menorah (the seven-branched candelabrum), they found only a single cruse of olive oil that had escaped contamination by the Greeks. Miraculously, they lit the menorah and the one-day supply of oil lasted for eight days, until new oil could be prepared under conditions of ritual purity. To commemorate and publicize these miracles, the sages instituted the festival of Chanukah.

At the heart of the festival is the nightly menorah lighting. The menorah holds nine flames, one of which is the *shamash* (“attendant”), which is used to kindle the other eight lights. On the first night, we light just one flame. On the second night, an additional flame is lit. By the eighth night of Chanukah, all eight lights are kindled.

On Friday afternoon, care must be taken to light the menorah before Shabbat candles are lit, and the following evening they are to be kindled only after Shabbat has ended.

Hanukkah can and occasionally does occur on Christmas, December 25. It will on December 25, 2027.

John 10:19-26

- (19) There was a division therefore again among the Jews because of these sayings.
 (20) And many of them said, He has a demon, and is mad; why do you listen to Him?
 (21) Others said, These are not the words of One who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?
 (22) And it was at Jerusalem the **Feast of the Dedication** {Hanukkah; Feast of Lights},^a and it was winter.
 (23) And Jesus walked into the temple in Solomon's porch.^b
 (24) Then the Jews came around Him, and said to Him, How long do You cause us to doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.
 (25) Jesus answered them, **I told you, and you did not believe: the works that I do in My Father's Name, they bear witness of Me.**
 (26) **But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.** KJP
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10:22a – Feast of Dedication [Hanukkah] {Jewish month of Kislev – Kislev 25 [November- December] }– temple re-dedicated after desecration by Antiochus Epiphanes– See Ezek. 43:13-27 – Mattathias led a revolt that was continued by his son Maccabeus that ended with the Jews having a short time of freedom. When the dedication of the temple took place the Jews only had 1 day’s supply of oil for their lights, but miraculously the oil lasted the full 8 days of the celebration and came to be called – Feast of Lights
 10:23b – Solomon’s Porch – see note on Acts 3:11

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Holy Day	Day	Jewish	Gregorian	Julian	Reference
Hanukah (Kislev 25)*	Friday	09 Kislev 25, 5784	12/8/2023	2460286	27601
Hanukah (Kislev 25)*	Thursday	09 Kislev 25, 5785	12/26/2024	2460670	27985
Hanukah (Kislev 25)*	Monday	09 Kislev 25, 5786	12/15/2025	2461024	28339
Hanukah (Kislev 25)*	Saturday	09 Kislev 25, 5787	12/5/2026	2461379	28694
Hanukah (Kislev 25)*	Saturday	09 Kislev 25, 5788	12/25/2027	2461764	29079
Hanukah (Kislev 25)*	Wednesday	09 Kislev 25, 5789	12/13/2028	2462118	29433
Hanukah (Kislev 25)*	Sunday	09 Kislev 25, 5790	12/2/2029	2462472	29787
Hanukah (Kislev 25)*	Saturday	09 Kislev 25, 5791	12/21/2030	2462856	30171

See [The Magi and The Date of Jesus’ Birth](http://www.TheWordNotes.com) at www.TheWordNotes.com