

Hope of Israel Congregation



Family Devotional



HOPE OF ISRAEL
CONGREGATION

קהילת תקות ישראל

www.shalomroanoke.com

Hanukkah celebrates the rededication of the Temple in 165 B.C. in Jerusalem. After the Syrian invaders desecrated the Temple, the Maccabee family led a Jewish revolt, recapturing, cleansing, and rededicating it for Holy worship. This victory was a testament to God's provision and the perseverance of His people to uphold His commandments, even under oppression. Hanukkah is an eight-day festival celebrated with the lighting of a nine-branched menorah called a hanukkiah. Each night, we light the candles, adding one for each night to commemorate the growing light and joy of the miracle.

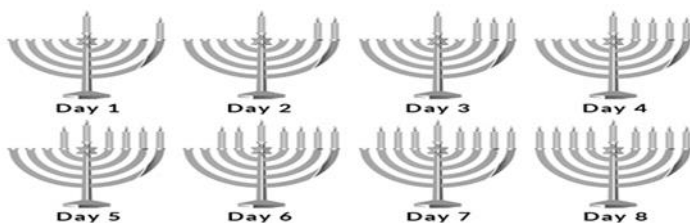
During this holiday, we remember how the Syrian invaders snuffed out the Temple's menorah. It was relit after the Temple's rededication. Tradition tells us of the miracle of the oil, where a small amount of consecrated oil, enough for one day, burned for eight days until new oil could be prepared, symbolizing God's provision.

For followers of Messiah Yeshua, Hanukkah reminds us of Yeshua, the Light of the World (John 8:12). He calls us to walk in His light and rededicate our lives as temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). The exact date of Hanukkah changes yearly but always occurs in winter. A few years ago, it started on Thanksgiving, which we called "Thanksgivukkah!" Winter has the shortest days and longest nights. How appropriate that Yeshua is the Light of the World. God calls us out of darkness into His glorious light.

There is coming a day when there will be no need for the sun and moon; God Himself will be the light. No shadows. No marking time by sunrise and sunset. No alarm clocks. Hallelujah! We will enjoy eternal communion with God. We cannot fathom what this will be like, but it will be amazing. As you share this devotional with family and friends, remember that in Messiah Yeshua, we have eternal life. In this life, we will have trials, but we are victorious. Try reading parts of Revelation Chapter 22 each night. (Keller)

Candle Lighting Custom

1. On the first of Hanukkah's eight nights, only two candles are placed in the Hanukkah menorah (also known as a hanukkiah): the shamash, or "servant" candle, which has its own designated spot (usually in the center), and another candle.
2. Each night, another candle is added so that on the eighth and final night of Hanukkah, nine candles (the shamash plus eight others) are lit.
3. The candles are placed from right to left (just as Hebrew is written from right to left) but are lit from starting with the newest placed candle (or from left to right).
4. The shamash candle is always the first one lit and is used to light the others, starting with the left-most one. (Think of it as lighting the candle representing the newest night first.)



Blessings for the Week of Hanukkah

1st blessing recited on the First Night of Hanukkah only

1. Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh Ha'Olam, shehecheyanu, vekiyemanu, vehigiyanu, lazman hazeh.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has kept us, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season!

2. Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh Ha'Olam, She-asa nisim la-voteinu, ba-yamim ha-hem, bazman ha-zeh.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe who has done miracles for our forefathers, in those days at this season.

3. Barukh Ata Adonai Eloheinue Melekh Ha'Olam, asher kid'shanu bidvaro, v'natan lanu et Yeshua Meshiheinu, or l'olam.

Blessed are you, Lord our God King of the Universe, Who has sanctified us with his word and has given us Yeshua our Messiah, the Light of the World.

Messiah Yeshua spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. The one who follows Me will no longer walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

The Good News of John

Day 1 - The LORD God is the source of light and gives light.

Genesis 1:3-5 ,Exodus 27:20-21; 40:24-25; Leviticus 24:1-4; Numbers 8:1-3; Exodus 13:21; Nehemiah 9:12,19, Psalm 36:9-10, Psalm 104:1-2, 1 Timothy 6:16, James 1:17



Today's selected scriptures focus on the aspect of light provided by a loving and protecting Father. From beginning to end, the Holy Scriptures speak of light. Light stimulates sight by making things visible and eliminating the darkness. When walking in darkness, light gives a source of direction, hope, and security. In the creation of the world, the light was the first thing God created. He saw that the light was good and separated the light from the darkness. Since the sun was not created until the fourth day, God himself appears to be the source of light. As the scriptures progress, God continues providing a source of light for his people. He provided light and warmth to the children of Israel through their dark desert nights while journeying through the wilderness. He instructed Moses to place a special menorah in the tabernacle and Temple to burn continually as a lasting ordinance. The Psalms declare the LORD God is wrapped in a robe of light and that His word enlightens our path. In New Covenant writings, God is called the Father of Lights who gives every perfect gift coming down from heaven. The most perfect gift He has given us is his fullest expression of His light in His son Yeshua the Messiah. The Messiah is the light of Israel and the true light that gives light to every man. Messiah is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being. **On this first night of Hanukkah, as you remember, the restoration of light in the Temple gives thanks to God for the fullest expression of his light given through Yeshua Messiah. Through faith in Him, we exchange darkness for light, have peace with God, eternal life, and a continuous source of light. (Mardian)**

Day 2 - Yeshua is the Light of the World

Isaiah 9:2, Matthew 4:12-17; Luke 1:76-79; 2:27-32

John 1:4-9, Job 18:5-6; Proverbs 27:20

John 3:19-21, John 8:12, John 12:44-46, Acts 26:22-23



Day 2

When we consider the light of Chanukah, how can we not hear our master Yeshua's own words from John 8:12, "I am the Light of the world..." Yeshua's proclamation was meant to reveal something about His nature to those who had ears to hear. To them, Israel was supposed to be a light to the nations (Isaiah 60:3). Still, Yeshua was proclaiming that He would be the one to draw nations into the light. Indeed, the people understood the light that shines from Jerusalem is the light of HaShem Himself. Yeshua, therefore, claimed that He is the Light of Adonai. Further, because we have been created to bear the image of HaShem (Genesis 1:26), we have the responsibility to carry that same light into the world by the example and power of Yeshua. Just as the shamash candle is lit first and lights the other candles, Yeshua showed Himself to be the be light of the world and has given us the means to do the same. For we were once darkness, but now, by His loving-kindness, we are children of light. May we be faithful ambassadors of HaShem by being filled with His light. (*Campbell*)

Day 3 - Shine the Light of Yeshua to the world

Proverbs 4:18, Isaiah 58:6-8, 10, Isaiah 60:1-2
Matthew 5:14-16, Luke 12:35, Philippians 2:14-15



On each night of Chanukah, after my family comes together to light the small chanukiah (Chanukah menorah of lampstand), we also "light" an 8-foot chanukiah outside for everyone to see. Lighting the chanukiah is both private and public. They are traditionally lit either in the doorway or are viewable through a window. Why would something so intimate be shown so publicly? Our Master, Rabbi Yeshua taught, us that we are the light of the world, which is to be placed for all to see, in which people will see what we do and give glory to HaShem (Mt 5:14-16). The chanukiah brightens the darkness and illumines the house inside and out. Our actions are to be light to the world. What sort of actions should this be? The Prophet Isaiah states that our actions, among other godly things, should be removing the bondages of the oppressed, feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and providing for our families (Is 58:6-8, 10). Then our light will break through the darkest shadows of the moon-lit night. Seems simple. We want our actions to be a light that rises in darkness (Is 6:10). Still, when the routine and stresses of life bring us down, we should be reminded to "do everything without grumbling, so that we might be blameless and innocent, children of God in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation. Among them we shine as lights in the world" (Phil 2:14-15). (*Penman*)

Day 4 - God's Word is our Light

Ezra 9:8, Psalm 19:7-11, Psalm 119:18, 105, 130
Proverbs 6:20-24, Ephesians 1:17-18



Day 4

Psalm 119 is an amazing portion of Scripture dedicated to God's Word, the Holy Scriptures. You can learn the entire Hebrew alphabet from the headings of each paragraph. I fondly remember our Torah Scroll dedication service. Having a Torah Scroll is a great privilege and a great responsibility. We are blessed to have the Scriptures in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek and our native tongue. God reveals His will as we learn more about Him through reading His Word every day. In the Scriptures, we see the good, the bad, and the ugly. We see great success and significant failure. Why? So we can learn from them. So many of the problems in the world today are due to Biblical illiteracy. On this 4th night of Hanukkah, Let me encourage you to read all of Psalm 119 in one sitting and hear the love poured out in the instruction. (*Keller*)

Day 5 - Walk in the Light

Psalm 89:15, Isaiah 2:5, Romans 13:12-14, 2 Corinthians 4:4-7, 1
John 1:6-9, 1 John 2:8-11, Ephesians 5:8-20



Day 5

Everything in the Temple attested to God's holiness and purity. That is why the desecration of God's dwelling place was so devastating. Even the oil burning in the menorah had to be pure and consecrated. When the Temple was rededicated, it was no longer dark due to the relighting of the menorah, and purity was restored. No one is pure enough to be in God's presence, but He provides the way. He sent his son Yeshua the Messiah to die in our place and exchange our guilt for His righteousness. When we dedicate our lives to God through faith in Yeshua's pure sacrifice, we have fellowship with God and the ability to walk in his light. Yeshua is the light of the world, and He said that we are too. The Temple in Israel no longer stands. The New Covenant Scriptures teaches when God sent His Holy Spirit to live within believers, we became God's Temple. God's Temple is where He dwells and where He dwells, there is light. We are called to walk in the light of Yeshua. As you read today's selected Scriptures, discuss what it means to walk in darkness and to walk in the light. We are called to walk in the light, continually discerning what pleases God. Walking in darkness is to be ignorant of God and His word and practice rebellion. **On this 5th night of Hanukkah, thank God for Messiah Yeshua's pure sacrifice. His sacrifice purifies our sins, allowing us to walk in the light and to be restored when we find ourselves slipping back into the way of darkness.**
(Mardian)

Day 6 - The Light of Lights

Psalm 26:10; Matthew 5:15; Luke 11:35; John 1:9; John 3:19-20;
John 8:12; Ephesians 5:8; 1 Peter 2:9

Have you ever experienced total darkness—the kind of darkness so intense that absolutely nothing is visible?

Years ago, our family visited Luray Caverns. When we were deep within the cave, the tour guide extinguished all the lights. That was the darkest dark we had ever “seen.” Nothing, neither a speck of light nor a hand directly in front of the face, could be detected. For just a moment, we could see what a blind person sees every day—nothing. Yet, with just a flick of a switch, light can illuminate even the darkest night.

The world is blind in the darkness of sin. They stumble to and fro in the night, feeling overwhelmed, not knowing where to turn. Yet, we have that light that can dispel even the darkest of evil. The Lord is the giver of light, for He is the Light of the World (John 8:12). We ourselves were once darkness (Ephesians 5:8a), but God has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). We are now light in the world (Ephesians 5:8b). It is in His light that we see light (Psalm 36:10).

Each year we light a Hanukkah as a symbol of God’s faithfulness. Just as the Hanukkah illuminates the darkness, we can help the world see the true Light, which gives light to everyone (John 1:9). We must not put our light “under a basket, but on a lampstand” so that all may see its light (Matthew 5:15; Luke 11:35).

This Hanukkah season, let us pray for God to open our eyes to see those lost in darkness and to bring the true light to the nations.

- Day 1: Why Is Hanukkah Celebrated?
 - Day 2: The God of Miracles
- Day 3: God as light in the TANAKH(Hebrew Scriptures)
 - Day 4: The Messiah, the Light of the World
 - Day 5: The Light to the Gentiles
 - Day 6: The Light to Come
 - Day 7: Children of the Light
- Day 8: The Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God (R. Keller)

Day 7 - Living in the LORD is living in Light

Psalm 4:6, Psalm 27:1, Psalm 37:3-6, Psalm 43:3-4, Psalm 112:4,
Micah 7:8

The winter holiday season surrounds us like a snowing day in January. Lights are being set up everywhere – including the occasional chanukiah (Chanukah menorah/lampstand) light – which is a major theme of Chanukah. What's the deal with light and Chanukah? It commemorates the light in the Temple, which is the centerpiece of HaShem's presence on earth. While the light itself does illuminate, that's not its purpose. As such, in Jewish homes and synagogues across the globe, it's not the primary source of light. So then, what is its purpose? It is a reminder that HaShem is our light and our salvation, which is a stronghold for our lives so that we are not bound to fear and dread (Ps 27:1). That being said, we should "trust in HaShem and do good, dwell in the [Israel] land, feed on [His] faithfulness. Delight yourself in HaShem, and He will give you the requests of your heart. Commit your way to HaShem, trust in Him, and He will do it" (Ps 37:3-5). If someone stops reading at this point, they will miss the verse that gives context to the rest: "He will bring your vindication as the light, and your cause will shine like the noonday." Sometimes, when walking with HaShem and following His mitzvot (commands), we are maligned because His methods are not the world's ways. However tempting, we shouldn't fear. King David understood this when he rhetorically asked, "Who should I fear or dread?" (Ps 4:6) When we are falsely accused or even convicted, we can say, "Baruch Dayan Emet" (Blessed is the True Judge). The Prophet Micah further stated, "Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy. Though I have fallen – I will arise. Though I sit in darkness, HaShem is my light" (Micah 7:8). (*Penman*)

Day 8 – Only a Jar of Oil

2 Kings 4:1-7, Psalm 73, Psalm 68, Romans 12:15, Galatians 6:2,
Ephesians 5:18, Matthew 6:6

Many years ago, a desperate woman cried out to Elisha saying, *"Your servant, my husband, is dead. You know that your servant feared Adonai. Now the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves."* Calmly, Elisha asked her what she had. *"Only a jar of oil"*, was her reply.

This jar of oil, her only possession and the symbol of her poverty was about to be used by Adonai as the vessel for her freedom and provision.

Elisha instructed her to borrow empty vessels from all her neighbors, many jars not just a few. She was further instructed to go inside and shut the door behind her and her sons, then to pour into each borrowed vessel. The widow did as directed and her single jar of oil filled each vessel, stopping only when no more empty vessels remained.

What do You have?

Oil in the scriptures often symbolizes the Holy Spirit. Is He all that you have? He is enough! More than enough! As Asaph said in Psalm 73, *"When have I in heaven but you? On earth there is none I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever... but for me, it is good to be near God. I have made my Lord Adonai my refuge. So I will tell of all your works."*

Borrow empty vessels from all your neighbors

None of us are called to walk this life alone. We are a community. The God who settles the lonely in families (Psalm 68) also calls us to weep with those who weep, rejoice with those who rejoice (Romans 12:15), and bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2). The widow was told to borrow many jars. She was called to act in faith, publicly requesting jars from all of her neighbors.

But then, she was told to close the door

Yeshua instructs us in Matthew 6:6, *"But you, when you pray, go into your inner room and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father, who sees in secret, shall reward you."*

The widow had cried out in desperation to Elijah and acted in faith by borrowing jars from her community. Now it was time to close the door,

removing all doubts and distractions. She and her sons would retreat to their inner room and experience a miraculous outpouring of oil!

Today, I invite you to do the same. Cry out to Adonai. Go to Him with your deepest need. Reach out to a brother or sister who can come alongside you and help you bear your burden. Empty yourself and wait for Him to fill you to overflow with His love, His grace, His power and His Spirit. (C.O'Mahony)

Do you know the Light of the world, Yeshua?

Knowing Yeshua is having salvation. Salvation begins with acknowledging our separation from God due to sin (Isaiah 59:2, Romans 3:23). The Hebrew Scriptures and New Covenant reveal that God provided the ultimate atonement through Messiah Yeshua, who died for our sins and rose again, fulfilling prophecy (Isaiah 53, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

By placing faith in Yeshua as Messiah and trusting in His atoning sacrifice, we receive forgiveness, reconciliation with God, and eternal life (John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9).

Salvation is not earned by works but is a gift of grace, accepted through faith. When we call upon Yeshua, confessing Him as Lord and believing in His resurrection, we are saved (Romans 10:9-10, Acts 4:12). This faith transforms us, leading to a new life empowered by the Holy Spirit to live for God's glory (2 Corinthians 5:17, Ezekiel 36:26-27).

May we suggest you bow your head before God and ask for forgiveness accepting the free gift of everlasting life through Yeshua the Messiah of Israel to the world.

Wont you please call us if you would like to discuss your questions or burdens regarding this relationship with Yeshua? You can email us at hoi@shalomroanoke.com or call our office at 540-632-0009.

About us:

What is Hope of Israel?

Hope of Israel is a Messianic Jewish congregation. This local community seeks to honor Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) through a joyful Jewish expression.

Why is it called Hope of Israel?

Hope of Israel refers to the Lord being the Messianic hope of redemption and also refers to the ancient name for Yeshua or Jesus (Jeremiah 14:8; Acts 28:20).

All are welcome!

No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, whether Jewish or Gentile or whether or not you have trusted in Yeshua as Messiah, you are welcome here.

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