



Berachot Chanukah -

Blessings said during Chanukah

וַיְהִי בִּימֵי הַחֲנֻכָּה בִּימֵי הַחֹדֶף בִּירוּשָׁלַיִם:

And it was at Jerusalem the feast of Chanukah, and it was winter.
- John 10:22



The Hebrew word *chanukah* means "dedication" and marks an eight-day winter celebration (from Kislev 25 - Tevet 2) that commemorates the victory of *faith* over the ways of speculative *reason*, and demonstrates the power of the *miracle* in the face of mere *humanism*.

Chanukiah Lighting Procedures

The procedures for lighting the *chanukiah* (Chanukah menorah) are as follows. On the first night, set the first candle in the rightmost holder (as you face the chanukiah). Next, light the *shamash* (servant candle), recite the Hebrew blessings, and then light the first candle using the shamash. After kindling the first candle, set the shamash in its holder. Recite the *Haneirot Hallalu* (see below) and begin to *celebrate!*

On the second night, set the candles from right to left in the chanukiah. That is, beginning at the rightmost holder, put one candle, then put another candle in the holder to its left. Next, light the shamash, recite the Hebrew blessings, and then light the candles from left to right in the chanukiah (in other words, you begin lighting the *newest* candle first). Recite the *Haneirot Hallalu* and then celebrate! This sequence continues night after night, until the eighth night, when the entire chanukiah is lit up:



Place right to left; Kindle left to right



The Hebrew Blessings (Hadlakat Neiroi Chanukah)

When lighting the candles for Chanukah, the following blessings are recited:

ברוך	אתה	י	אלהינו	מלך	העולם,	אשר	קדשנו
barukh	at-tah	Adonai	e-lo-hei-nu	me-lekh	ha-'o-lam	'a-sher	kid-de-sha-nu
Blessed	You	LORD	our God	King of the universe	who	sanctifies us	

במצותיו,	וצונו	להדליק	נר	של	חנוכה.
be-mits-vo-tav	vet-si-va-nu	le-had-lik	ner	shel	cha-nuk-kah
with his mitzvot	and commanded	to kindle	of	Chanukah	
us					

Blessed art thou, Lord our G-d, King of the universe, who sanctifies us with Thy commandments and commanded us to kindle the light of Chanukah.

Barukh attah Adonai Eloheinu Melekh ha-olam, asher kiddeshanu be-mitzvotav, vetzivanu lehadlik ner shel chanukah.

Next, the remembrance of the miracle of the season:

ברוך	אתה	י	אלהינו	מלך	העולם,	שעשה	נסים
barukh	at-tah	Adonai	e-lo-hei-nu	me-lekh	ha-'o-lam	she'a-sah	nis-sim
Blessed	You	LORD	our God	King of the universe	who performed	miracles	

לאבותינו	בימים	ההם,	בזמן	הזה.
la'avoteinu	ba-yamim	ha-hem	ba-zeman	haz-zeh
for our fathers	in those days		at this time	

Blessed art thou, Lord our God, Master of the universe, who performed miracles for our fathers in those days at this time.

Barukh attah Adonai Eloheinu Melekh ha-olam, she'asah nissim la'avoteinu ba-yamim hahem, ba-zeman hazzeh.



The Shehecheyanu Blessing

On the first night of Chanukah (*only*), add the following blessing:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיָּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמֶן הַזֶּה.

Blessed art thou, Lord our God, Master of the universe, who has kept us alive and sustained us and has brought us to this special time.

*Barukh attah Adonai eloheinu melekh ha-olam,
she-hecheyanu ve'ki-yemanu ve'higianu laz'man hazeh.*

Haneirot Hallalu - the closing paragraph

After one candle has been kindled, the *Haneirot Hallalu* may be recited while lighting the other candles:

הַנֵּרוֹת הַלְלוּ אֶנְחֵנוּ מִדְּלִיקִין עַל הַנִּסִּים וְעַל הַנִּפְלְאוֹת,
han nif'la 'ot ve al han nis sim al mad li kin a nach nu hal la lu ha nei rot
and for the wonders for the miracles kindle we these lights

וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת וְעַל הַמְּלַחְמוֹת, שְׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ
ve al ha te shu 'ot ve al ha mil cha mot she 'a si ta la' a vo tei nu
and for the salvations and for the battles that You did for our forefathers

בְּיָמֵי הַהֵם, בְּזֶמֶן הַזֶּה, עַל יְדֵי כַהֲנֵיךָ הַקְּדוֹשִׁים.
ha ke do shim ko ha ne kha ye dei al haz zeh ba ze man ha hem ba ya mim
the hands of your holy priests. by at this time in those days

וְכֹל שְׁמוֹנַת יָמֵי תְּנֻכָּה, הַנֵּרוֹת הַלְלוּ קֹדֶשׁ הֵם.
hem ko desh hal la lu ha nei rot cha nu kah ye mei sh' mo nat ve khol
are holy these lights eight days of Chanukah And all



וְאֵין לָנוּ רְשׁוּת לְהִשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ בָּהֶם, אֲלֵא לְרְאוֹתָן בְּלִבָּד,

bil vad lir 'o tan 'ella ba hem le hish ta meish re shut la nu ve ein
only to behold them but of them to make use and we have no right

כְּרִי לְהוֹדוֹת וּלְהַלֵּל לְשִׁמְךָ הַגָּדוֹל עַל נִסֶּיךָ וְעַל

ve al nis se kha al ha ga dol le shim kha ul ha lel le ho dot ke dei
and for your miracles for to Your great Name and praise to give thanks in order

נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ וְעַל יְשׁוּעָתֶךָ.

ye shu 'a te kha ve al nif le 'o te kha
Your salvation and for your wonders

Translation - Transliteration:

We kindle these lights (to commemorate) the miracles and wonders and the saving acts that You have performed for our forefathers, in those days at this time, by Your holy priests. And all throughout the eight days of Chanukah, these lights are holy, and we are not permitted to make use of them, but only to behold them, in order to offer thanks and praise to Your great Name for Your miracles, for Your wonders and for Your salvation.

*Haneirot hallalu anachnu madlikin al hanissim ve'al hanifla'ot,
ve'al hateshu'ot, ve'al hamilchamot, she'asita la'avoteinu
bayamim hahem, bazeman hazeh al yedei kohanekha hakedoshim.
Vekhol sh'monat yemei Chanukah Haneirot hallalu kodesh hem.
Ve'ein lanu reshut lihishtamesh bahem ela lir'otam bilvad
kedei lehodot ulhallel lishimkha hagadol al nisekha ve'al
nifle'otecha ve'al yeshuatekha.*

Note: On Friday night the Chanukah lights are lit before the Shabbat candles (and on Saturday night they are light during Havdalah). No practical use may be made of the Chanukah lights, such as the illumination of a room: they are sacred for the occasion.



Displaying the Chanukiah

It is an old custom to display the chanukiah where its lights will be visible from the outside. Note that if you place the chanukiah near a window, the candles should appear lit right to left from the point of view of the one seeing them from outside. Many families have multiple chanukiahs, one for each child of the household, and perhaps a larger one for the entire family.



A Messianic Blessing

During Chanukah candle lighting, you may wish to recite the statement of the LORD Yeshua that He is indeed the Light of the world:

אֲנֹכִי אֹרֶה הָעוֹלָם הַהֹלֵךְ אַחֲרַי לֹא יֵלֵךְ בַּחֹשֶׁךְ כִּי-לֹא אֹרֶה הַחַיִּים

I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. (John 8:12)

Anokhi 'or ha-olam, ha-holeikh acharai, lo yeileikh ba-choshekh, ki-lo 'or ha-chayim.

