Berachot Chanukah -
Blessings said during Chanukah

Arachot Hanukkah ברכה חנוכה

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
Honoring the Light of the World

Of course everything centers on our beloved Savior Yeshua - including the festival of Chanukah. Indeed, as Jewish tradition readily affirms, “All the world was created for the Messiah” (Sanhedrin 98b), and therefore during the candle lighting ceremony we first of all reaffirm the glorious truth that Yeshua is the Light of the world. Those who follow Him will never walk in the darkness because in Him is the light of life (John 8:12)

Before performing the Chanukah candle lighting ceremony, you may want to offer up a prayer of thanks and then ask everyone present to listen to the words of the Messiah:

אני אור העולם אחריו שלחתי, לא יהלך בחושו כי לור חיות.
I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall never walk in the darkness, for in him is the light of life.

anokhi or ha’olam, ha-holekh acharai, lo yelekh bacho-shekh, ki-lo or ha-chayim.
Candle Lighting Blessing (rabbinical)

When lighting the candles for Chanukah, most Jews recite Hadlakat Nerot Chanukah, the traditional blessing established by the rabbis:

ברוך אתה ג‑ד א‑ל‑ו‑ה‑נ‑ו מ‑ל‑ך ע‑ל‑ו‑ם אתה בָּרוּךְ
kideshanu ‘asher ha’olam melekh eloheinu Adonai atah barukh
sanctifies us who King of the universe our God LORD You Blessed

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה א‑ל‑ו‑ה‑נ‑ו מ‑ל‑ך ש‑ל‑וֹרְשָׁם נ‑ר ש‑ל‑וֹר ש‑ל ח‑נ‑ו‑ק‑ה
Charukkah shel ner lehadlik vetzivanu bemitzvot
Chanukah of light to kindle and commanded us with his mitzvot

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 kideshanu be-mitzvotav, vetzivanu lehadlik ner shel chanukah.

Candle Lighting Blessing (Messianic)

Most followers of Yeshua do not accept rabbinical authority and therefore object that we are “commanded” to light the Chanukah candles. The following Messianic blessing may therefore be recited instead:

ברוך אתה ג‑ד א‑ל‑ו‑ה‑נ‑ו מ‑ל‑ך ע‑ל‑ו‑ם אתה בָּרוּךְ
ha’olam melekh Eloheynu Adonai atah barukh
the universe king (of) our God Lord are you Blessed

ל‑ס‑י‑מ‑כ‑ח וא‑מ‑ו‑ד‑ין ח‑ע‑ק‑כ‑ו‑ט ח‑ג‑ג‑י‑מ ל‑א‑נ‑ו נ‑א‑ט נ‑א‑ש‑ר א‑ש‑ר
lesimchah u’modin chukkot chaggim lanu natan asher
for gladness and seasons customs holidays has given to us who

ל‑ש‑ו‑ה‑ר י‑ו‑ש‑ו‑ו‑א ל‑ו‑ד י‑ו‑ש‑ו‑ו‑א ל‑ו‑ד ה‑ל‑ו‑י‑ו‑ד
leshovar yeshua lavo yeshua lavo lavo levo
the light of the world our Lord Yeshua the Messiah for the glory of

by John J. Parsons
She'asah Nissim Blessing

The second blessing (she'asah nissim – the One who works miracles) is then recited (just before or immediately following the candle lighting):

בָּרוּךְ אֲדُונֵי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הַעַלָּל הַמָּלָאךְ הַגָּדוֹל שָׁמֶשׁ נָסִים
doing miracles Who performed King of the universe our God LORD You Blessed

לֻבְּרֹךְ אֲדֹנָי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָאָלָל הַמָּלָאךְ הַגָּדוֹל שָׁמֶשׁ נָסִים
doing miracles for our fathers in those days for our fathers

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 אֲדֹנָי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָאָלָל שָׁמֶשׁ נָסִים
doing miracles Who performed Who has kept us alive and sustained us for our fathers

בָּרוּךְ אֲדֹנָי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָאָלָל שָׁמֶשׁ נָסִים
doing miracles 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.
Hanerot Hallalu - the closing paragraph

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

הנרות הכהנים אཀנו לפני המלך עלי הגיסו על הנרות
han niflaot ve al hanisim al ha nesirot
and for the wonders we these lights

עלו הקשורים על המלך המaisal והם ששים
la'avo te'i ru she'asita ha mil cha mot ve al ha te shu'ot ve al
that You did for our forefathers the battles and for

הResidents who בימה חמה בימת תיה, על בידי קבוצת הכהנים
ha ke do shim ko hane kha ye dei al hazzeh baze man ha hem bayamim
the hands of your holy priests.

ובכל שמותי נמי חפצים, הנרות הכהנים KRISH TDH
hem ka deish hallalu ha nesirot chanukah ye mei sh'mo nat ve khol
are holy these lights eight days of Chanukah And all

לזא ידע מת שימתו מתSeats של הבימה, כר לזרותי בכל
bil vud ha o tan elle ba hem le hishta meish re shut la ru ve ein
only to behold them but of them to make use and we have no right

ברר להודות להורדות כליל לשמה הם חורים עד בזש רעיל
ve al nise kha al haga dol le shim kha ul halel le ho dot ke dei
and for your miracles for to Your great Name and praise to give thanks in order

וכל האורות על השם
ye shu'as te kha ve al nif la o te kha
Your salvation and for your wonders

by John J. Parsons

Hebrew4christians.com
Henerot 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.


Some of the sages have said the word Messiah (i.e., mashiach) should be regarded as an acronym for the phrase: Madlikin (מ) Shemonah (ש) Yemei (י) Chanukah (ח), i.e., "we light throughout the eight days of Chanukah." During the eight days of Chanukah we kindle lights in commemoration of the "miracles, deliverance, mighty deeds salvations, wonders and solace" that our Heavenly Father performed for us "in those days, at this time" -- and this is thought to prefigure the greater deliverance to come in the power of the Messiah.

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.

So let us celebrate the true Light of the World, Yeshua our beloved Savior and Messiah! Let your light shine, chaverim! Let’s put away the sin that so easily besets us and rededicate our lives to the Lord. Chag Chanukah Same’ach!