



# HANUKKAH

The Hanukkah Menorah (or *Chanukiah* in Hebrew) is a candlestick that holds nine candles, specifically for Hanukkah. Eight of the candles each represent one of the eight days of Hanukkah. The ninth candle is raised above the others and is called the **Shamash**, meaning helper-candle. It is used to light all the other candles.

If possible, candles should be lit immediately after sunset and should be allowed to burn completely. One family member may light the candles on behalf of the whole family, but it is fun to have each family member light his/her own *Chanukiah*.

The first candle is lit (using the *shamash*) on the first night. On the next night, two candles are lit, and one more added each night up through the eighth night. The candles are placed in the *Chanukiah* from right to left (facing you); but, when lighting them, first kindle the “new” candle added that evening (using the *shamash*) and then proceed from left to right.

On the first night, all three of the blessings below are said. On all other nights, only the first two blessings are recited.

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בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

*Ba-rooch a-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-noo me-lech ha-o-lam, a-sheer keed-sha-noo  
b'meetz-vo-tav v'tzee-va-noo l'had-leek nayr shel cha-noo-kah.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe,  
Who makes us holy with commandments, and commands us to light the Hanukkah candles.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמַּן הַזֶּה.

*Ba-rooch a-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-noo me-lech ha-o-lam, she-a-saw nee-seem  
la-a-vo-tay-noo ba-ya-meem ha-hem baz-man ha-zeh.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe,  
Who made miracles for our ancestors in those days, at this season.

**Only on the first night:**

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמַּן הַזֶּה.

*Ba-rooch a-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-noo me-lech ha-o-lam, she-he-che-ya-noo  
v'kee-y-ma-noo v'hee-gee-a-noo, laz-man ha-zeh.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe,  
Who gives us life and sustains us, and brings us to this season.