



FOUNDATIONS OF JUDAISM: CHANUKAH

CHANUKAH QUESTIONS

Gavriel Z. Bellino

1. What is the Jewish date of Chanukah and for how long do we celebrate?
2. What is the meaning of the word Chanukah?
3. When did the story of Chanukah take place?
4. What are the prohibitions of Chanukah?
5. What are the ritual observances of Chanukah?
6. What miracles are celebrated? What are the sources of these stories?
7. What is the logical problem with 8 days of lighting?
8. Who are the main characters of these stories?
 - a. Antiochus IV
 - b. Hasmonean Family
 - c. Mattiyahu
 - d. Judah Maccabee
 - e. Judith
9. What do we light? What's the deal with electric?
10. How many candles do we light? Specify the three levels of this Mitzvah.
11. Why do we light?
12. Where do we light?
13. What are the blessings?
14. What time do we light?
15. What is the method of lighting?
16. What is a Chanukiya? What is a Menora?
17. For how long must the candles be lit?
18. What do we do on Shabbat?
19. What are the general themes of Chanukah liturgy?
20. What are the customs of Chanukah and what are their sources?
 - a. Shamash
 - b. Sevivon/Dreidel
 - c. Latkes
 - d. Sufganiyot
 - e. Dairy
 - f. Gelt
21. What does Chanukah indicate about the Jerusalem/Athens dichotomy?
22. How has Chanukah been corrupted by Christmas?
23. How has Chanukah been appropriated by Zionists?
24. What are the more adult themes of Chanukah?