

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE HOME

### Kindling the Chanukah Lights

We thank You, God, for the redeeming wonders and the mighty deeds with which You saved our ancestors in days of old at this season. In the days of the Maccabees, a tyrant nation rose against our people, determined to make them forget Your Torah, and to turn them away from obedience to Your will. But in Your abundant mercy, You stood at their side in their time of trouble. You gave them strength to struggle and to triumph, that they might serve You in freedom.

Through Your spirit, the weak defeated the strong, the few prevailed over the many, and the righteous were triumphant. Then Your children returned to Your house, to purify the Temple and kindle its lights. And they established these eight days of dedication, to give thanks and praise to You.

Grant, O God, that the heroic example of the Maccabees may inspire us to be loyal to our heritage and valiant for truth. May Your holy spirit help us to overcome the darkness of prejudice and hatred, spreading the lights of liberty and of love.

*Reader*

These lights are a symbol of the joy we feel that our faith was saved from extinction. May their flames burn ever more brightly, to illumine our lives and to give light to all the world.

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*The Shamash (servant-candle) is kindled*

*The candles are placed in the Chanukah Menorah from right to left, and kindled from left to right.*

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתַיִךְ,  
וְצִוֵּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Ba-ruch Atah Adonai Elo-hay-nu Melech ha-o-lam ah-share  
kid-sha-nu b'mitz-vo-tav, v'tzi-va-nu l-had-leek nayr shel  
Chanukah.

Let us praise God, Ruler of the Universe, who hallows us through laws and ethical teachings, and commands us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שְׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים  
לְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ וּלְאֲמֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה.

Ba-ruch Atah Adonai Elo-hay-nu Melech ha-o-lam sh'ah-sah  
nee-seem la-avo-taynu u-l'ee-mo-tay-nu, ba-ya-meem ha-haym,  
baz-man ha-zeh.

Let us praise God, Ruler of the Universe, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old, at this season.

*On the first night of Chanukah only*

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
שֶׁהֲחֵינּוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעְנוּ  
לְזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה.

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Ba-ruch Atah Adonai Elo-hay-nu Melech ha-o-lam sh'he-chee-ya-nu  
v'kee-y'ma-nu v'he-gee-ya-nu laz-man ha-zeh.

Let us praise God, Ruler of the universe, for giving us life, for  
sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this day of joy.

We kindle these lights in remembrance of the wondrous  
deliverances which God performed for our ancestors. During the  
eight days of Chanukah, these lights are holy. We are to use them  
for no other purpose than to behold them, that we may give thanks  
for God's wondrous acts of deliverance.

*Ma-oz Tzur Rock of Ages*

מַעוֹז צוּר יְשׁוּעָתִי	לְךָ נָאֵה לְשַׁבָּח,
תְּבוֹן בַּיִת תְּפִלָּתִי	וְשֵׁם תּוֹדָה נְזַבְּחָ,
לַעֲת תִּכְיֶן מִטְּבַחַ	מִצָּר הַמְּנַבְּחָ,
אִז אֶגְמֹר, בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר, חֲנֻכַּת הַמְּנֻבְּחָ.	

Ma-oz Tzur y'shu-ah-ti.  
L'cha na-eh l'sha-bay-ach.  
Tee-kon bayt t'fee-la-ti,  
V'shom to-dah n'za-bay-ach.  
L'ayt ta-cheen mat-bay-ach,  
Me-tzar ha-m'na-bay-ach.  
Az eg-mor, b'sheer miz-mor,  
Chanukat ha-miz-bay-ach.

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Rock of Ages, let our song  
Praise Your saving power;  
You, amid the raging foes,  
Were our sheltering tower.  
Furious, they assailed us,  
But Your arm availed us,  
And Your word broke their sword,  
When our own strength failed us.

Kindling new the holy lamps,  
Priests approved in suffering,  
Purified the nation's shrines,  
Brought to God their offering.  
And in courts surrounding,  
Hear, in joy abounding,  
Happy throngs, singing songs,  
With a mighty sounding.

Children of the Maccabees,  
Whether free or fettered,  
Wake the echoes of the songs,  
Where you may be scattered.  
Yours the message cheering,  
That the time is nearing,  
Which will see each one free,  
Tyrants disappearing.