



NEW LIGHT NEWS

November – December 2018 Cheshvan – Kislev – Tevet 5779

CONGREGATION OHR CHADASH
A MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE

ק.ק.א.ור חדש

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THE JEWS WHO SAVED CHRISTMAS

Hanukkah's modern revival happened in the early 1900s, largely to combat a feeling of lack in Jews amid the rampant pageantry and warmth of Christmas, and to kindle in Jewish youth (and adults) a love for their own heritage.¹ There is no better place to stoke that fire than in the home, and no one better to tend it than the family. It clearly worked, as Hanukkah has survived and prospered since then. Though its revival is due in part to rivalry with Christmas, unfortunately it's not well known that Christmas was only possible because of Hanukkah.²

Hanukkah commemorates and celebrates the Maccabees, who revolted against the Seleucid dynasty of Antiochus IV (whose title, *theos epiphanes*, means "god manifest"). Circumcision, kosher laws, study of Torah, and Shabbat all were outlawed during Antiochus's reign, as was the entirety of the Temple service. Instead he erected an idol of Zeus in the Temple and sacrificed pigs to it, mandating that all Jews should do the same, as was done throughout the rest of his dominion. Antiochus sought to forge his lands into a nation of uniformity, with him as father, king and deity.³

The prohibitions and mandated idolatry paint a picture of Greece, not of Israel. This was exactly the desired effect, to force the Jews to conform to Greek ways of life, and hoping that over time they would be transformed permanently, forgetting the Torah and their G-d. Had these changes stuck, there'd be no little town of Bethlehem (at least not as we knew it), no care for a recorded Davidic lineage, no Torah scholars with whom Yeshua would discuss and debate, and no crowds of people to remember the concept of Messiah, let alone await one's arrival. A Hellenized Israel, seeing Yeshua's miracles and hearing his teachings, might attribute his divinity to the Greek gods, and not to the G-d of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This very thing happened to Rav Sha'ul (the Apostle Paul) in Iconium, where the people thought that his teaching and divine power were of Zeus, and that "the gods have come down in the form of men."⁴

In order to receive the Messiah, Israel would have to be faithful to G-d through Torah, and would need to expect his arrival *as Messiah*, not as a foreign god. The Maccabees' love of G-d, his Torah and his Temple roused a flame which ignited a fire throughout Israel. Their bravery and faith restored the nation to faithfulness and the Temple to holiness. As a lamp properly cleaned and filled with oil is ready to be lit, so an Israel properly observant to Torah is ready to receive the flame of Messiah. The Maccabees dressed not only the lamp of the Temple, but also the lamp of the Jewish people. Without their sacrifice we would all be lost.

– Matthew Lilly

¹ Dr. Michael Feldberg, *How Christmas Transformed Hanukkah in America*, myjewishlearning.com/article/hanukkah-american-style/

² Credit and many thanks to Dr. Patrice Fischer, for this and countless other invaluable insights.

³ For more, see Rabbi Dr. S. M. Lehrman, *A Guide to Hanukkah & Purim*, Jewish Chronicle Publications, London.

⁴ Acts 14:11

The enclosed envelope is for your convenience, or use the PayPal button that is located on our reworked web site. Please click on ohrchadash.org.

READERS NOVEMBER

2: Gary & Connie Kolosey
9: Janis Nicolosi & Lisa Harris
16: Virginia Sajdera & Kerry Roberts
23: Sharon & Don White
30: Celia Larimore & Jenni White

DECEMBER

7: Diane Minnix & Patrice Fischer
14: Catalina & Alex Brown
21: Art & Betty Brown
24: Rishon Service: Schutz
28: Richard & Vicki Turnage

CANDLE LIGHTERS NOVEMBER

Jenny Thielemann
Jenni White
Connie Kolosey
Patrice Fischer
Virginia Sajdera

DECEMBER

Lisa Harris
Vicky Turnage
Diane Minnix

Sharon White

ONEG SCHEDULE NOVEMBER

Twardzik Havurah
Morel Havurah
Schutz Havurah
Kolosey Havurah
Twardzik Havurah

DECEMBER

Morel Havurah
Schutz Havurah
Kolosey Havurah

Twardzik Havurah

November 2018 / Cheshvan – Kislev 5779

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 / 23 Cheshvan	2 / 24 Cheshvan Shabbat Service, 7:25 PM	3 / 25 Cheshvan Chayei Sarah
<p align="center">MISS A SERVICE? You can watch videos of our services here: vimeo.com/ohrchadash Audio recordings of the sermon are sent out every week. Send us an email at OhrChadashOffice@aol.com to be added to the list!</p>						
4 / 26 Cheshvan	5 / 27 Cheshvan	6 / 28 Cheshvan	7 / 29 Cheshvan	8 / 30 Cheshvan Rosh Chodesh Kislev, 1st Day	9 / 1 Kislev Rosh Chodesh Dinner, 6 PM Shabbat Service, 7:25 PM Rosh Chodesh Kislev, 2nd Day	10 / 2 Kislev Toldot
11 / 3 Kislev	12 / 4 Kislev	13 / 5 Kislev	14 / 6 Kislev	15 / 7 Kislev	16 / 8 Kislev Shabbat Service, 7:25 PM	17 / 9 Kislev Vayetzei
18 / 10 Kislev	19 / 11 Kislev	20 / 12 Kislev	21 / 13 Kislev	22 / 14 Kislev Thanksgiving	23 / 15 Kislev Shabbat Service, 7:25 PM	24 / 16 Kislev Vayishlach HAVDALAH & GAME NIGHT, 7 PM
25 / 17 Kislev Congregational Meeting 7:00–8:00 PM	26 / 18 Kislev	27 / 19 Kislev	28 / 20 Kislev	29 / 21 Kislev	30 / 22 Kislev Shabbat Service, 7:25 PM	

December 2018 / Kislev – Tevet 5779

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 / 23 Kislev Vayeshev
2 / 24 Kislev Hanukkah: 1 candle	3 / 25 Kislev Hanukkah: 2 candles	4 / 26 Kislev Hanukkah: 3 candles	5 / 27 Kislev Hanukkah: 4 candles	6 / 28 Kislev Hanukkah: 5 candles	7 / 29 Kislev Shabbat Hanukkah Service, 7:25 PM Hanukkah: 6 candles	8 / 30 Kislev Miketz Hanukkah Party, 6 PM Rosh Chodesh Tevet, 1st Day Hanukkah: 7 candles
9 / 1 Tevet Rosh Chodesh Tevet, 2nd Day Hanukkah: 8 candles	10 / 2 Tevet Eighth Day of Hanukkah	11 / 3 Tevet	12 / 4 Tevet	13 / 5 Tevet	14 / 6 Tevet Shabbat Service, 7:25 PM	15 / 7 Tevet Vayigash
16 / 8 Tevet	17 / 9 Tevet	18 / 10 Tevet Fast of 10th of Tevet	19 / 11 Tevet	20 / 12 Tevet	21 / 13 Tevet Shabbat Service, 7:25 PM	22 / 14 Tevet Vayechi
23 / 15 Tevet	24 / 16 Tevet Rishon Service, 10 PM	25 / 17 Tevet Yom Mashiach	26 / 18 Tevet	27 / 19 Tevet	28 / 20 Tevet Shabbat Service, 7:25 PM	29 / 21 Tevet Shemot HAVDALAH & GAME NIGHT, 7 PM
30 / 22 Tevet	31 / 23 Tevet New Year's Eve					

Ups and Downs

We're excited! We have met the \$6,000 challenge grant to help us repair the double air conditioner unit on the ark side of the sanctuary. A major thank you! And thank G-d!



We're thunderstruck (literally)! A recent storm took out the air conditioner blower on the piano side of the sanctuary. The bill is still forthcoming, and the higher end of the estimate was \$1,000.

A reminder! We still have some roof repairs estimated at \$1,600 that need to be tended to. And unfortunately, general giving has been down somewhat while operating expenses have gone up.
