

Chanukah Blessings & Songs

Candles are lit on each of the eight nights of Chanukah--one the first night, two the second, and an additional candle on each subsequent night. The candle for the first night is placed at the far right of the chanukiah; on each subsequent night, another candle is added to the left. An extra candle, designated as the shamash, is lit first, then used to light the others after the blessings are recited. Each night the candles are lit from left to right, starting with the new candle.

<p>Praised are You Adonai our God, who rules the universe, instilling in us the holiness of mitzvot by commanding us to light the lights of Hanukkah.</p>	<p>Baruch atah Adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav, v'tzivanu l'hadlik neir shel Chanukah.</p>	<p>בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.</p>
<p>Praised are you Adonai our God, who rules the universe, accomplishing miracles for our ancestors from ancient days until our time.</p>	<p>Baruch atah Adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam, she,asah nisim la'avoteinu bayamim haheim baz'man hazeh.</p>	<p>בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזַמַּן הַזֶּה.</p>
<p><i>On the first night only:</i> Praised are You Adonai our God, who rules the universe, granting us life, sustaining us, and enabling us to reach this day.</p>	<p><i>On the first night only:</i> Baruch atah Adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higi'anu laz'man hazeh.</p>	<p><i>On the first night only:</i> בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזַמַּן הַזֶּה.</p>

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<p><i>After the lights are lit:</i> These lights which we kindle recall the wondrous triumphs and the miraculous victories wrought through Your holy Kohanim for our ancestors from ancient days until our time. These lights are sacred through all the eight days of Chanukah. We may not make use of their light, but are only to look upon them, and thus be reminded to thank and praise You for the wondrous miracle of our deliverance.</p>	<p><i>After the lights are lit:</i> Hanerot halalu anachnu madlikin Al hanissim ve'al haniflaot ve'al hatshu-ot ve'al hamilchamot she'asita la'avoteynu bayamim hahem, bazman hazeh Al yedey kohanecha hakdoshim. Vechol shmonat yemey Chanukah Hanerot halalu kodesh hem, Ve-ein lanu reshut lehishtamesh bahem ela lirotam bilvad kedei lehodot leshimcha Al nissecha veal nifleotecha ve-al yeshuotecha.</p>	<p><i>After the lights are lit:</i> הַנֵּרוֹת הַלְלוּ אֲנַחְנוּ מְדַלִּיקִים עַל הַנִּסִּים וְעַל הַנִּפְלְאוֹת וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת וְעַל הַמְּלַחְמוֹת, שְׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזַמַּן הַזֶּה, עַל יְדֵי כְּהֻנֵּיךָ הַקְּדוֹשִׁים. וְכָל שְׁמוֹנַת יָמֵי חֲנֻכַּת הַנֵּרוֹת הַלְלוּ קֹדֶשׁ הֵם, וְאִין לָנוּ רְשׁוֹת לְהִשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ בָּהֶם, אֶלָּא לְרְאוֹתָם בַּלְבָּד, כְּדֵי לְהוֹדוֹת וּלְהַלֵּל לְשִׁמְךָ הַגָּדוֹל עַל נִסֶּיךָ וְעַל נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ וְעַל יְשׁוּעָתֶךָ.</p>
<p>Rock of Ages, let our song praise Your saving power. You amid the raging throng were our sheltering tower. Furious they assailed us, but Your help availed us. And Your word broke their sword when our own strength failed us. <i>(Translation: G. Gottheil)</i></p>	<p>Ma'oz Tzur Yeshu'ati, lekha na'eh leshabe'ah. Tikon beit tefilati, vesham toda nezabe'ah. Le'et takhin matbe'ah mitzar hamnabe'ah. Az egmor beshir mizmor hanukat hamizbe'ah.</p>	<p>מְעוֹז צוֹר יְשׁוּעָתִי לְךָ נִאֶה לְשַׁבַּח, תִּכּוֹן בַּיִת תְּפִלָּתִי וְשֵׁם תוֹדָה נִזְבַּח, לְעֵת תִּכּוֹן מִטְבַּח מִצָּר הַמְּנַבֵּחַ, אֲז אֶגְמֹר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ.</p>