

The story of Hanukkah is demonstrated in how Hebrew numbers the eight days.

The 1st day is numbered with the first letter of the Hebrew Alef-Bet, it is **א** **Alef**.

Alef **א** is the same letter used to number the 1st commandment; It is the first letter in the first verse of "A virtuous woman" (אִשְׁת־חַיִל) actually a *Mighty Warrior*). **Alef** is the first letter, and started as the picture of the head of an ox **א**. **Alef** symbolizes what is **strong** or **first**.

The first day of **Hanukkah** starts with **knowing**, **tasting**, **experiencing** **God**, who overcomes our limitations.

We are dedicated to what we have tasted, or experienced. If we have never experienced the power, love and goodness of God, then the best that we can do is to follow the rules, and we will never experience the heart of **Hanukkah** or **dedication** like Enoch, Moses or King David.



David knew in times of trouble that with God as his shepherd any lack or want disappears through God's strength and love.

Hanukkah is to be tasted

A sweet tradition for Hanukkah is the taste of Jelly filled donuts. I recommend this as a way to remember that the taste of life, love, purpose, and God change everything.



Today, let us embrace the first day of **Hanukkah**, by remembering the goodness of God. Start with that taste, and take a small step today.

Let today be the first day of your living the eternal story of Hanukkah.

Day 1

A Great Miracle Happened There!



Happy Hanukkah



The 1st
of 8 days of miracles
that end with the miracle
of Yeshua (Jesus), the Messiah

I love the story of **Hannukah**, especially the many parts of the Hanukkah story that were revealed over the centuries.

The most commonly known Hanukkah happened after the Greeks ruled Israel, they turned God's Temple into a temple to worship Zeus, and they sacrificed a pig on the altar. The Jews were not allowed to worship the God of the Bible.

When the Jews freed Jerusalem, they rededicated the Temple and the altar, but they only had one days worth of oil for the Temple Menorah. Instead of waiting the 8 days that it would take to make more, they started with what they had, and God made their insufficient effort last for the full 8 days. They gave all they had and God completed what they could not.

Because there are 8 days of celebration in Hanukkah, I am going to tell a different part of the story on each night. Each of the stories is about God taking our insufficient effort and doing a miracle.

If you are a Christian, or a Messianic believer, you may not be aware just how much the Hanukkah story is a crucial part of your heritage. I won't tell this part of the story yet, but read John 10:22 and you will see that Jesus (Yeshua) celebrated the feast of Hanukkah or Dedication at the Temple in Jerusalem. Later I will show you why this was a vital part of the total Hanukkah story.

Hanukkah חֲנֻכָּה **Dedication**

The meaning shown in the Bible, in history, it is meant to be experienced by each of us

The meaning of חֲנֻכָּה **Hanukkah** can be seen in the name **Enoch** (חֲנֻכָּה **Hanuk**) the **dedicated one**, the one who **tasted** or **knew**, and therefore was **dedicated** to God.

Let me explain.

Taste, Restore, Dedicate

Hanukkah means **dedication**, and comes from the root חָנַךְ **H.N.K.** Strong's #2596 which means to **taste**, to **train** or to **dedicate**.

The concept is that what you taste, you discern, and this gives an understanding that allows you to fully commit to what is vital, life giving and gives a real future.

Let me explain.

As a child in Montana my first pizza was a cheap frozen brand, that I, thought was wonderful, but years later when I tasted *homemade* pizza, in an Italian home made, from scratch, everything changed. That one *taste* changed me.

And Enoch walked with God

Genesis 5:24

One taste of God's presence does the same. This is seen in the life story of **Enoch** (חֲנֻכָּה **Hanuk** - see Genesis 5:24).

The first **Hanukkah** (**dedication** that comes from tasting) was seen in **Enoch** (the dedicated one) who walked, experienced God and was tranformed.

The expressions used for Hanukkah is...

A Great Miracle Happened There! (Jerusalem)

All of the Hanukkahs involve a great miracle. This is meant to be experienced for everyone, including you and me.



Today we light the first of 8 candles on a Hanukkah menorah. But there are **9** candles, the middle one lights the others, and is called the **שַׁמֶּשׁ** **Shamash** which means the **helper** or **minister** in Hebrew.

שַׁמֶּשׁ **Shamash** or שֶׁמֶשׁ **Shemesh** means the **Sun** and represents God, like the sun, God is the source, of the fire and strength as seen in the Psalm 84.

On the 1st day of Hanukkah, God, who is the source, lights our limited first step. We give out of our limitation, God finishes with His abundance.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield;

*The LORD will give grace and glory,
no good thing will He withhold.
Psalm 84:11*