

Chanukah

Ref: *Sefer Zemanim, Hilchot Megilah Vechanukah, Chapter 4*

Chanukah lighting

We light candles for 8 days on Chanukah to commemorate the miracle victory of the Hasmoneans against the Greeks. One day's oil lasted for 8 days in the lighting of the Temple Menorah.

Everyone is obligated in lighting *Chanukah* candles.

On the first night, we say **3 brachot** before lighting. On the second night, we say **2 brachot** before lighting.

	Fulfils obligation	Explanation
Candles lit for each member of household in an increasing manner each day for 8 days	✓	One's obligation fulfilled even if only 1 candle lit per household each night
Should be kindled at sunset	✓	One may light later if circumstances delay one
All oils and all kinds of wicks may be used	✓	
Forbidden to make use of <i>chanukah</i> candles for one's own benefit		
Places <i>menorah</i> outside the entrance of one's home, or by a front window, or <i>opposite</i> the <i>mezuzah</i> of a door.	✓	
<i>Chanukah</i> lamp higher than 20 amah	x	Because lamps cannot be seen well when so high.

Lighting the *Menorah*.

The *mitzvah* of lighting *Chanukah* candles is a very dear one. A person should be very careful in its observance to demonstrate his gratitude to Hashem for the miracles which He performed for us. Even if a person has no money for food, he should pawn his possessions to buy *Chanukah* candles.

However, if a person has only enough resources to buy either *Chanukah* lights or *Shabbat* candles he should purchase *Shabbat* candles, because this brings about *shalom* (peace) between husband and wife.

And the entire Torah was given to bring about peace in the world. 'Its ways are pleasant and all its paths are Peace.'