



This Chanukah, Choose Light

Each year, the story of Chanukah reminds us that it's in our power to overcome insurmountable odds. When the Maccabees, surrounded and outnumbered, faced the ancient Syrian-Greeks, they did not despair—they fought fiercely against the forces that wanted to oppress them. And when they reclaimed the temple and realized they had only enough oil to kindle the menorah for one night, they lit their flame—trusting that a miracle would extend this light.

Our tradition beckons us to choose to act in the face of the challenges before us: We can choose courage in the face of fear, and choose hope in the face of anguish. Our world has faced innumerable obstacles this year—but just as our ancestors did, together we can choose light.

As you light each candle this Chanukah, we invite you to reflect on how you are choosing light and justice this year...

- 🕯 I choose **LIGHT** by illuminating the path to a better, brighter, more equitable world for all.
- 🕯 I choose **JOY** by savoring each opportunity to celebrate, no matter how small.
- 🕯 I choose **DIGNITY** by working to uphold the inherent worth of every human being.
- 🕯 I choose **GENEROSITY** by gifting my time, talents and resources to help others.
- 🕯 I choose **CONNECTION** by deepening my relationships with friends and loved ones—and expanding my circles to build kinship with people whose lives are different from my own.
- 🕯 I choose **COMMUNITY** by joining together to realize our shared vision of tikkun olam—working to repair our world.
- 🕯 I choose **ACTION** by raising my voice to fight the injustices all around us.
- 🕯 I choose **JUSTICE** by living my values and rededicating myself toward building a world where all people can realize their full human rights.

BLESSING FOR LIGHTING THE CANDLES

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוְּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Barukh ata Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha'olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel chanukah.

“Blessed are You, Our God, Ruler of the universe, who made us holy through Your commandments and commanded us to kindle the Chanukah lights.”

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזְמַן הַזֶּה.

Barukh ata Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha'olam, she'asa nisim la'avoteinu ba'yamim ha'hem ba'zman ha'ze.

“Blessed are You, Our God, Ruler of the universe, who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days at this time.”

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁחִיָּינוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזְמַן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha'olam, shehecheyanu vekiyemanu vehigi'anu lazman hazeh.

“Blessed are You, Our God, Ruler of the universe, who has kept us alive, raised us up and brought us to this moment.”



Looking for more Jewish Justice resources?

Visit our website to download a wide range of original rituals for the Jewish holidays that inspire action to build a better world: www.ajws.org/holidays.