NEW LIGHT NEWS

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2026 CHESHVAN - TEVET 5787

CONGREGATION OHR CHADASH
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ק ק אור חדש

A HANUKKAH REFLECTION

Dedicated Hearts, Renewed Light

THE COVENANT OF HANUKKAH



Hanukkah is often defined as the "Festival of Lights" or a victory of the few against the many. This is true, but the historical and covenantal framing goes deeper. The rededication of the Temple in 164 BCE was not merely a military triumph; it was a courageous struggle to preserve covenant identity, Torah life, and wholehearted devotion to the L-rd.

The Hebrew word *Hanukkah* literally means "dedication." **Under Antiochus IV Epiphanes, the assault on Jewish life was systematic.** 1 Maccabees 1:41-64 and 2 Maccabees 6:1-11 describe decrees against Shabbat, circumcision, Torah scrolls, biblical Festivals, Temple sacrifice, kashrut, and Torah observance. The Temple was desecrated and dedicated to Zeus; Jews were compelled into pagan worship and forbidden even to identify openly as Jewish. Torah scrolls were torn and burned. Resistance could mean execution: women and their infants were killed over circumcision, while others chose death rather than eat prohibited food. This was an attempt to erase covenant life itself. When the Maccabees cleansed the sanctuary and rebuilt the altar, they answered: *To whom does our worship belong?*

THREE RESTORATIONS AT THE HEART OF HANUKKAH

1. CLEANSING (PURIFICATION)
Removing defilement so divine worship could resume.

2. REDEDICATION (CONSECRATION)
Rebuilding the altar and Menorah as a declaration of sole loyalty to the G-d of Israel.

3. PRESERVATION (COVENANT IDENTITY)
Rejecting assimilation and affirming Israel's eternal calling.

The miracle of the oil was a sign of divine favor, but Hanukkah's heart is covenant faithfulness: a people standing firm in G-d's grace rather than surrendering.

Yeshua's presence in Jerusalem during Hanukkah carries profound biblical weight. John records: *"At that time the Festival of Dedication took place at Jerusalem; it was winter, and Yeshua was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon"* (John 10:22-23). He did not stand aloof from His people's Festival cycle. Walking in the Temple courts, He revealed Himself as both the Good Shepherd who preserves His flock and the true Light (John 10:11, 27-28).

By preserving the Temple and the Jewish people, Maccabean rededication kept open the historical road for Messiah. Yeshua brought a greater rededication: cleansing human hearts and writing His Torah within us through the Renewed Covenant (Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:10).

As we kindle the lights of the Hanukkiah this December, we proclaim more than an ancient victory. We are cleansed, rededicated, preserved, and walking in His light. Hanukkah presses a vital question on us in this dark season: **"As we remember the rededication of the Temple, have we fully dedicated our hearts to Him?"**
We are His, and His light shines in us.

WORSHIP WITH US

Join us for Shabbat



Every Friday evening at 7:30 PM

Miss a service? Watch anytime on YouTube:
youtube.com/c/CongregationOhrChadash

COMMUNITY FEATURE

Stump the Stars, Jewish Style

7:00 PM at the synagogue. See reverse for dates.
Questions: stumpthestars@gmail.com
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November 2026

CHESHVAN - KISLEV
HEBREW YEAR 5787

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 21 Cheshvan	2 22 Cheshvan	3 23 Cheshvan	4 24 Cheshvan	5 25 Cheshvan	6 26 Cheshvan Shabbat Service 7:30 PM	7 27 Cheshvan Chayei Sara
8 28 Cheshvan	9 29 Cheshvan	10 30 Cheshvan Rosh Chodesh Kislev	11 1 Kislev Rosh Chodesh Kislev	12 2 Kislev	13 3 Kislev Shabbat Service 7:30 PM	14 4 Kislev Toldot Informal Torah Study 5:00-6:30 PM
15 5 Kislev	16 6 Kislev	17 7 Kislev	18 8 Kislev	19 9 Kislev	20 10 Kislev Shabbat Service 7:30 PM	21 11 Kislev Vayetzei Stump the Stars 7:00 PM
22 12 Kislev	23 13 Kislev	24 14 Kislev	25 15 Kislev	26 16 Kislev	27 17 Kislev Shabbat Service 7:30 PM	28 18 Kislev Vayishlach
29 19 Kislev	30 20 Kislev					

Missed a service?

Watch services anytime on YouTube
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SCAN TO WATCH

December 2026

KISLEV - TEVET
HEBREW YEAR 5787

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 21 Kislev	2 22 Kislev	3 23 Kislev	4 24 Kislev Erev Hanukkah Hanukkah Service 7:30 PM	5 25 Kislev Vayeshev Hanukkah I Hanukkah Party 6:30 PM
6 26 Kislev Hanukkah II	7 27 Kislev Hanukkah III	8 28 Kislev Hanukkah IV	9 29 Kislev Hanukkah V	10 30 Kislev Hanukkah VI Rosh Chodesh Tevet	11 1 Tevet Shabbat Service 7:30 PM Hanukkah VII Rosh Chodesh Tevet	12 2 Tevet Miketz Hanukkah VIII Informal Torah Study 5:00-6:30 PM
13 3 Tevet	14 4 Tevet	15 5 Tevet	16 6 Tevet	17 7 Tevet	18 8 Tevet Shabbat Service 7:30 PM	19 9 Tevet Vayigash Stump the Stars 7:00 PM
20 10 Tevet	21 11 Tevet	22 12 Tevet	23 13 Tevet	24 14 Tevet	25 15 Tevet Shabbat Service 7:30 PM	26 16 Tevet Vayechi
27 17 Tevet	28 18 Tevet	29 19 Tevet	30 20 Tevet	31 21 Tevet		