



CHANUKAH – FEAST OF DEDICATION – FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Celebrated 2009 from Dec 1-Dec 8.

Chanukah celebrates the miraculous victory of the Macabees over the Syrian armies. When the Jewish nation recaptured the *Beit Hamidash*, the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, they searched and found only one flask of oil with the High Priest's seal. It had just enough oil to light the Temple Menorah for one day, and it would take 8 days to make more. They lit the menorah anyway, and the oil miraculously burned for 8 days while more was being prepared. Thus began the Feast of Dedication to celebrate this miracle, their great deliverance from oppressors, and the dedication of the newly cleansed temple.

Today Chanukah is celebrated with a 9-branch menorah. Eight of them recall the 8 days the oil miraculously burned, while the 9th is the *Shamash* (Servant) candle used to light the others. On the eve of the first day of Chanukah we light one candle on the menorah, adding one more candle each night until 8 are lit on the last night. The candles are placed from right to left and are lit from left to right, beginning with the newest candle. The *Shamash* candle is used to light the candles each night and is then placed in its designated holder on the menorah. Yeshua (Jesus) is often compared to this servant candle as he came humbly to this earth, spoke often of servanthood, and who is, to us believers, the "Light of the World"!

In traditional Judaism, olive oil or candles provide the light of the menorah. There must be enough oil or candle length to burn until ½ hour after nightfall. The menorah is often placed in a doorway or window so passersby can share the light. All family members participate in this beautiful ceremony of light, and the children are likely to receive Chaunkah *gelt* (chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil).

While the kindling of the Chanukah lights are taking place, New Testament believers can add to the celebration by singing, reading Psalms of Joy and Light, and by sharing testimonies of God's deliverance in their own lives.

THE FOLLOWING IS A SCHEDULE OF LIGHTING THE CHANUKAH CANDLES FOR 2010:

Dec 1 (anytime after 5:05pm) Place one candle on right-most branch, light the Shamash candle, then light the first candle.

Dec 2 (anytime after nightfall) Place 2 candles from right to left, light the Shamash candle, then light the 2 candles, from left to right.

Dec 3 (anytime after nightfall) Place 3 candles from right to left, light the Shamash candle, then light the 3 candles, from left to right.

Dec 4 (anytime after nightfall) Place 4 candles from right to left, light the Shamash candle, then light the 4 candles, from left to right.

Dec 5 (anytime after nightfall) Place 5 candles from right to left, light the Shamash candle, then light the 5 candles, from left to right.

Dec 6 (anytime after nightfall) Place 6 candles from right to left, light the Shamash candle, then light the 6 candles, from left to right.

Dec 7 (anytime after nightfall) Place 7 candles from right to left, light the Shamash candle, then light the 7 candles, from left to right.

Dec 8 (anytime after nightfall) Place 8 candles from right to left, light the Shamash candle, then light the 8 candles, from left to right.

HAPPY CHANUKAH FROM ALL OF US ABBA OIL!!