

Celebrating His Light



HANUKKAH
DEVOTIONALS
FOR
YESHUA'S
FOLLOWERS

8 NIGHTS
OF LIGHT

Julianne Lewis

Celebrating His Light

Hanukkah Devotionals for Yeshua's Followers



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BatYah.org

Family Heritage Media

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Dedication

To my son, Levi Benjamin, whose passion for knowing and loving Yah and obeying His Torah is genuinely contagious. Because of your hunger for truth, I've left my comfort zone to be more authentic in serving Yah.

To my groom, Tim, who supports me and encourages me in all my endeavors. You are indeed my very bestest friend in this lifetime.

To my Mamma, Gloria, who keeps asking questions sincerely to learn and reminds me that we are never too old to keep learning Yah's truth.

To Rabbi Mordecai Silver and Sharan, who helped me return to the truth in Messiah and see where Scripture teaches Gentile followers are grafted into the covenant and were expected to learn the teachings of Moses.

To my coach, Azaria, who continues to mentor me in pressing forward.

To my sister in Yeshua, Christina, who keeps shining bright and inspires me.

And to all who call upon the name of יהוה and follow Yeshua—this book is for you.

“For He is Life – this Life is the Lamp of men. And the Lamp does shine in the gloom; but the gloom and darkness do not have power over it.”

– Hebrew Gospel of Yochanan (John) 1:4-5

P R E F A C E



Introduction

Hanukkah, aka Chanukah (the Hebrew word for "Dedication"), commemorates the awe-inspiring triumph of the Maccabees, a small band of Jewish warriors who stood fixed on their principles despite immense opposition. In 167 BC, the Seleucid king Antiochus IV desecrated the Jewish Temple and forbade the worship of Yah. The Seleucids, though a multiethnic empire, were culturally and politically Greek. Antiochus IV sought to impose Hellenization on all under his rule, including the worship of Zeus.

A courageous group led by Judah Maccabee rose to reclaim the Temple and restore the worship of the Almighty. After their victory, the Temple was cleansed and rededicated. The menorah was lit—a powerful symbol of Yah's Shechinah glory dwelling in the Temple. This event is believed to have inspired the tradition of the Festival of Lights, celebrated during Hanukkah in the winter season.

While some traditions speak of a miraculous supply of oil lasting eight days (which may or may not be historically accurate—this remains a point of debate), the true miracle of Hanukkah lies in the victory of righteousness over spiritual oppression and the triumph of light over darkness. This enduring symbol of hope and optimism is at the heart of the Hanukkah celebration.

This Hanukkah-themed devotional reflects on the true Light—Yeshua, the Hebrew name for Jesus, the name His family and disciples would have known Him by—and His role in fulfilling the promises of deliverance and the tradition of rededication seen throughout Scripture, brought into sharp

focus during the Hanukkah (Dedication) celebrated by the Maccabees and continuing to inspire us today.

For those who question the name “Festival of Lights,” believing it to be a later addition, I encourage you to consider the writings of Flavius Josephus. In his work *Antiquities of the Jews* (written around 93–94 AD), he refers to Hanukkah as the “Festival of Lights.” His writings, intended to explain Jewish traditions and history to a Greco-Roman audience, affirm that this name was used during the Second Temple period.

This Hanukkah-themed devotional is designed to provide spiritual insights and reflections on the true Light-Yeshua, the Hebrew name for Jesus. It aims to inspire and guide you in your journey of faith, particularly during the Hanukkah season. I have listed several FAQs for those interested. You will find them next, before the eight devotionals. Also, you will find various resources in the back of the book. I hope these eight devotionals will inspire you to rededicate your temple to Yah in the name of Yeshua during this season.

FAQs

Why I Use Yah Instead of God, Lord, Hashem, or Adonai

The pronunciation of the Name, יהוה, often becomes a catalyst for significant debate among followers of Yeshua. Some are deeply offended when His Holy Name is spoken, while others take issue with the titles "Lord" or "God." Additionally, there is no collective agreement on the proper pronunciation of the Name. Scholars, linguists, and some less educated suggest variations such as Yahweh, Yehovah, or Yahuah, each with their defenders.

However, one thing is generally accepted: the Name contains "Yah," as seen repeatedly in Scripture (e.g., HalleluYah). "Yah" is both respectful and brings us into agreement, offering a way to honor יהוה without contributing to division over pronunciation.

By using "Yah," I aim to reflect His holiness while respecting others' convictions. It is not about ignoring the importance of His Name but about fostering peace and mutual respect. I trust that one day when Yeshua returns, He will make all these things clear, and we will call upon יהוה in perfect unity.

In my writings, I mostly use "Yah" or the tetragrammaton, יהוה, leaving room for individuals and families to "read" the Name according to their understanding. I hope to honor Him while promoting shalom among those who call upon His Name.

A Personal Journey of Redemption

It was during the season of both Hanukkah and Christmas when Yah used my search for our Hanukkiah to call me back to genuinely following Yeshua and embracing Torah once again. I was caught between two worlds, celebrating both holidays without fully understanding the more profound significance of either. My past in Messianic faith was painful, and I had departed from it. I was attending a Sunday non-denominational church and keeping their holidays instead of all the feasts of Yah. One year, I couldn't find my Hanukkiah anywhere, and as I searched, I felt this deep yearning stirring within me—a longing for a deeper connection to Yeshua, a pullback to the roots I had been missing.

As the days went by, I couldn't ignore the growing desire to return to the foundations of my faith. By the next Hanukkah, all desire for Christmas was gone from me. Yah had used this season to reawaken a commitment in my heart to follow Yeshua fully, to honor His ways, and to embrace His feasts (the moedim). I had been drawn into the light of Hanukkah, and in that light, I saw the fullness of His salvation—Yeshua, the Light of the World.

This journey has shaped my understanding of Hanukkah and its connection to Yeshua as the ultimate Light of redemption. As you read through this devotional, I hope you will be reminded of the beautiful journey Yah takes us on, from the darkness of confusion to the light of His truth. May it be a time of reflection and celebration of the incredible gift of salvation He offers to all, Jew and Gentile alike, and may the light of Yeshua illuminate your path as it has mine.

Shalom and HalleluYAH!

Would Yeshua be here if the Maccabees hadn't fought?

According to prophecies, the birth of Yeshua was part of Yah's eternal plan, and **Elohim (God) would have ensured it came to pass** regardless if the Maccabees acted. However, the Maccabean revolt was key in preserving Israel's identity and faith. They helped set the stage for the coming of their true Messiah, Yeshua. Similar to Moses, their actions were crucial in the history of salvation, and without them, things may have unfolded differently, but Elohim's plan would not have been thwarted.

*"The counsel of Elohim stands and will accomplish all His purpose."
(Isaiah 46:10)*

Is the Hanukkah Jewish or Babylonian?

While some might associate the Hanukkah (the Hanukkah Menorah) with Babylonian influence, its origins lie firmly within Jewish tradition, specifically tied to the miraculous events surrounding the Maccabean revolt. The seven-branched menorah, described in Exodus 25:31-40, symbolized the light of Yah in the Temple, a key element in the worship of Israel. The menorah was used in the Tabernacle and the Temple in Jerusalem, and Yah explicitly commanded its design.

The Hanukkah, a nine-branched menorah, was introduced to commemorate the rededication of the Temple following its desecration by the Seleucid king Antiochus IV. While the miracle of the oil—a small amount of oil burned for eight days—is a widely celebrated part of the Hanukkah story, it is not mentioned in the earliest written records. The eight-day celebration itself, however, is recorded in 1 Maccabees, which calls the Jewish people to commemorate the rededication of the Temple for eight days. This celebration began shortly after the Maccabees purified the Temple and restored its sacred practices.

The miracle of the oil, first written about approximately 600 AD in the Talmud, may not seem as credible as the writings of the Maccabees regarding the rededication of the Temple. Whether one believes in the miracle of the oil or not, the celebration of Hanukkah continues to be a powerful reminder of Yah's presence and providence. Yah could have performed such a miracle if He had willed it. The Hanukkah serves as a symbol of His enduring light, even in times of oppression and adversity, especially for the Jews.

Furthermore, Yeshua attended the Temple during Hanukkah in John 10:22, as most Jews commemorated the eight days yearly (see 1 Maccabees 4:56-59 below).

By the time of the Maccabees, the Jews were many generations removed from their time in Babylon (about 370 years before). The design of the Hanukkah, with its eight candles plus the shamash (servant candle), stood for

the eight days of dedication. To the best of my research, Babylonian practices did not influence this nine-branched menorah. It's a development within Jewish tradition and was founded with the purpose of remembering the Jewish people's rededication of the Temple and their miraculous survival. Today, it serves as a reminder that even in the darkest times, Yah's light shines brightly.

“So they celebrated the dedication of the altar for eight days, and offered burnt offerings with gladness; they offered a sacrifice of deliverance and praise. They decorated the front of the temple with golden crowns and small shields; they restored the gates and the chambers for the priests, and furnished them with doors. There was very great gladness among the people, and the reproach of the Gentiles was removed.

Then Judas and his brothers and all the assembly of Israel determined that every year at that season the days of the dedication of the altar should be observed with gladness and joy for eight days, beginning with the twenty-fifth day of the month of Chislev.”

~ 1 Maccabees 4:56-59 RSV

Does Hanukkah Matter to a Follower of Yeshua?

Hanukkah, or the Feast of Dedication (John 10:22-23), is mentioned in the Apostolic Writings (New Testament). Yeshua Himself was at the Temple during this festival, which suggests it holds significance, as He likely used it to teach wondrous truths.

Hanukkah commemorates the Maccabean revolt and the rededication of the Temple after it was defiled. For followers of Yeshua, this history teaches us:

1. **Faithfulness to Yah:** The Maccabees stood firm against assimilation and idolatry, reflecting the call to live set apart for Yah (Lev. 20:26, 1 Pet. 1:15-16).
2. **Dedication and Light:** More than just a historical event, Hanukkah celebrates dedication and light. It marks the cleansing and rededication of Yah's Temple, a powerful symbol for followers of Yeshua, who are now His temple (1 Cor. 6:19). This makes Hanukkah a perfect time for personal spiritual reflection and rededication.
3. **Yeshua as the Light of the World:** The theme of light is central to Hanukkah, and Yeshua declared, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). Hanukkah reminds us to walk in His light and reflect it to others.

If I'm not a Jewish believer, does Hanukkah matter?

Yes, Hanukkah can matter to Grafted-In followers of Yeshua, though it is not a biblically commanded feast like the Appointed Times, aka Moedim (Lev. 23). This is why I think it matters:

1. **A Celebration of Yah's Faithfulness:** Hanukkah is a reminder that Yah is faithful in protecting a remnant of His people through His promises. The historical events it commemorates paved the way for Yeshua's coming by preserving the Torah and Israel's identity.
2. **A Lesson in Spiritual Dedication:** Just as the Temple was cleansed and rededicated, believers are called to examine their lives, remove what is defiled, and renew their dedication to Yah.
3. **Standing Against Compromise:** The story of Hanukkah challenges us to resist the current culture's pressure to compromise our faith. We can rededicate ourselves to remain resolute in following Yeshua, even in the face of danger.

While Hanukkah is absolutely not required to be observed, it provides a meaningful opportunity to reflect on Yah's provision, Yeshua's light, and the courage to remain faithful in this dark world. It's a celebration of defeating an enemy by Yah's redemptive power—truths that solidify the faith of all who follow Him.

Hanukkah is not listed in Leviticus 23, so why should I celebrate this feast?

While it's true that Hanukkah (the Festival of Dedication) is not included in the list of appointed times (Moedim) found in Leviticus 23, this does not mean it is irrelevant or unimportant to a follower of Yeshua.

1. Hanukkah is not a commanded feast like those in Leviticus 23, but it is a celebration of deliverance and dedication, themes central to the Torah.

The Hanukkah events memorialize the Maccabees' triumph over their persecutors and the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem. This rededication is noteworthy because it symbolizes the safeguarding of worship and obedience to Yah, even in the face of persecution. These themes align with the heart of the Torah. We are called to remain faithful to Yah, worship Him alone, and keep His commands despite the culture surrounding us.

2. Hanukkah highlights Yah's faithfulness in preserving His people.

In the story of Hanukkah, we see the miracle of the oil (whether taken as fact or tradition) and the persistence of the Jewish people to live for Yah, even with the tide of genocidal hate. Just as Yah preserved the people of Israel through the Maccabean revolt, He keeps us today. Hanukkah is an opportunity to remember Yah's ongoing faithfulness in our lives.

3. Yeshua chose to go to the Temple during Hanukkah. He never condemned it.

In John 10:22-23, it is written that Yeshua was in Jerusalem during the Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah), during winter. While Yeshua never commanded His followers to observe Hanukkah, His participation in the feast day seems to prove its worth. By observing Hanukkah, we connect with following Yeshua's example. We remember His values of faithfulness to Yah, dedication to the Temple (now symbolically the body of the believers), and He is the Light that penetrates the darkness. Why did Yochanan (John) mention the Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) if it didn't matter?

4. Hanukkah is an opportunity to reflect on spiritual dedication and the Messiah's role as the Light of the World.

The spiritual themes of Hanukkah are beautifully meaningful for followers of Yeshua. Lighting the Hanukkiah each night can remind us of Yeshua, the Light of the World (John 8:12). He came to bring light into the darkness. As we light the candles, we can focus on how we can be lights in the world, shining forth His love, truth, and glory!

5. Hanukkah is a time to celebrate the victory over darkness.

Though Hanukkah is not one of the Feasts of Yah commanded in Leviticus 23, it celebrates victory over ungodly tyranny. When we face symbolic "darkness," Hanukkah can be a time to reflect the light that Yeshua brings into our lives in the midst of despair and struggles.

6. The "extra-biblical" feasts can be meaningful for spiritual growth.

In the Scriptures, there are numerous examples of Jewish believers participating in traditions and customs not explicitly outlined in the Torah. They would celebrate Purim (Esther 9:27-32). The absence of Hanukkah in Leviticus 23 does not invalidate it; instead, it shows that Yah does not only work through the specific feasts outlined in Leviticus 23, but He can also teach us through other historical times of Israel, His people, and experiences. Yah's arm is not too short!

Hanukkah is not explicitly commanded in Leviticus 23, but it is a beautiful time for personal rededication. Yeshua's example and the Messianic themes captured in Hanukkah make it a joyful time for followers of Yeshua to celebrate and grow spiritually.

Ultimately, the decision is yours! Celebrating Hanukkah can be seen as an act of personal dedication and a way to honor Yah's work in history, just as the early believers in Yeshua recognized and observed Hanukkah. We can participate in this celebration to cultivate our faith and devotion to the One who is the Light of the World. We can choose to let it inspire and motivate us.

Does the Shamash Represent Yeshua?

In a traditional Hanukkah, the *Shamash* (the "servant" or "attendant" candle, though you will commonly hear it called the "helper" candle) is set apart and used to light the other eight candles. It plays an essential role in the observance of Hanukkah if one is using a Hanukkah.

Some Messianics believe the *Shamash* symbolizes Yeshua (Jesus), particularly in its meaning of "servant." The Hebrew word *Shamash* translates to "servant," so this concept aligns with the Messianic prophecies of the Servant in the book of Isaiah (Isaiah 42, 49, 50, and 53). Yeshua is described in these prophecies as the one who would humble Himself, serve others, and eventually bring light and salvation to the nations.

Some believe the *Shamash* is set apart above the other candles, emphasizing its higher role. In the same way, Yeshua is exalted above all as the "Light of the World," who was the suffering servant in His first coming to bring light to others. The *Shamash* also kindles the other lights on the Hanukkah, just as Yeshua ignites the fire of His followers, enabling them to shine brightly in the world. Some Jews call it the "helper" candle, which I find interesting because when Yeshua ascended, He sent us the "Helper," the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit).

Thus, the *Shamash* becomes a visual reminder of Yeshua's role as both the Servant and the true Light that shines in the darkness and the Ruach's purpose as our Helper (remember, in Hebrew, a helper is someone who comes to aid another who cannot help themselves).

What about Jonathan Maccabee becoming the High Priest?

The Maccabean Legacy: Judah and Jonathan

Judah Maccabee, aka The Hammer, was the eldest son of Mattathias (a Levite) and the leader of the Jewish uprising against the Seleucids. His zealous commitment to the Torah and courageous leadership during the Maccabean revolt earned him a place of honor in Jewish history. Tragically, Judah was killed in 160 BC during a battle against the Seleucid general Bacchides. His death marked a tremendous loss for his people, leaving the leadership in the hands of his brother, Jonathan.

After Judah's death, Jonathan Maccabee took command of the resistance (this was long before Star Wars). His leadership continued the fight against the Seleucids, but he also assumed a role he was not to have according to the Torah. In 152 BC, approximately 8 years after Judah Maccabee's death, Jonathan was appointed high priest by Alexander Balas, the Seleucid king, as part of a political strategy to secure his loyalty. This triggered a heavy tension between Torah faithfulness and political practicality.

The Torah clearly states that the high priest must descend from Aaron's line, a principle Judah fought to uphold in his zealous defense of the Temple and the purity of worship. Judah's untiring commitment to restoring the Temple after its desecration by Antiochus IV demonstrated his devotion to Torah observance. It is logical to conclude that Judah, had he lived, would have vehemently opposed any violation of the priesthood's hereditary requirements, viewing such actions as a compromise of Yah's commands. What we know of Judah that wouldn't fly.

Jonathan, however, faced complex issues and caved to temptation. Did he believe it was for the greater good, or was it pride? Either way, it was wrong. Following Judah's death, Jonathan's influence made him a major character in the struggle for Jewish independence. Alexander Balas' offer of the high priesthood represented political leverage yet a challenge to Torah principles. While it handed Jonathan authority and secured political

alliances, it simultaneously broke the Torah's requirements for the priestly lineage and surely lost the blessing of Yah.

Jonathan's appointment as high priest demonstrates the hard decisions met by the Maccabees in navigating the political pressures of their time. It highlights the tension between keeping Torah faithfulness and addressing immediate political and military needs. Judah, known for his uncompromising dedication to Yah's commands, most likely would have viewed such an appointment as an abomination and stood against it, underscoring the complexity of leadership and family ties, especially in times of turmoil.

Optional Reading:

- 1 Maccabees 1:41-64 – Antiochus's desecration of the Temple
- 1 Maccabees 2:1-29 – The revolt of the Maccabees begins
- 1 Maccabees 3:1-18 – The early victories of Judah Maccabee
- 1 Maccabees 4:36-59 – The rededication of the Temple

Celebrating His Light



1st Lighting - Light of the World

A. Devotional Thought

Yeshua declared, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). His light not only dispels the shadows of sin but also illuminates the way to eternal life. Amid a dark world, His light brings clarity, comfort, and purpose, guiding us on a path of truth and righteousness. As we light the first candle of the Hanukkah, we remember the victory of the Maccabees, who restored the temple's menorah to its rightful place. Just as the Maccabees' victory brought light back into the Temple, Yeshua, the true Light of the World, has restored light to our lives and redeemed our relationship with the Father.

In Isaiah 60:1, we are called to "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of Yah has risen upon you." Through Yeshua's coming, the true Light has dawned, and His light is for all nations, bringing salvation and hope to every heart. Who will have ears to hear?

B. Scripture Reflection

- **John 1:4-5:** "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."
- **Isaiah 9:2:** "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."
- **Isaiah 60:1:** "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of Yah has risen upon you."

- **Matthew 5:14-16:** “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, giving light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

C. Prayer

"Blessed are You, Yah, our Elohim, King of the universe,

Who has given us the Light of Yeshua, our Savior.

As we light this first candle, we remember the Maccabees' victory and the restoration of the light in the Temple.

We thank You for sending Yeshua to be our Light, who shines in the darkness and guides us to eternal life.

May His light fill our hearts and overflow into the world around us.

Help us to shine His light in the darkness, bringing hope, truth, and peace to those who need it most.

In Yeshua's name, Amen."

D. Action/Tzedakah

On this first day of Hanukkah, reflect on how you can be a light in someone's life. Just as the Maccabees rededicated the Temple, consider how you can rededicate your life to Yeshua, allowing His light to shine through your actions. Whether through words of encouragement, a small act of kindness, or a simple prayer, let His light radiate from you today.

NOTES:



2nd Lighting - Light of Redemption

A. Devotional Thought

Yeshua, the Light of the World, is not only our Redeemer but also the Light that shines on all nations. His coming brought redemption to Israel and opened the way for the Nations to receive the light of salvation. As we light the second candle of the Hanukkiah, we remember that Yeshua's light is for all people, guiding them from the darkness of sin into the glorious light of His kingdom. Through Yeshua, redemption is made available to everyone—Jew and Gentile alike.

The story of the Maccabees, who fought to preserve the faith and rededicate the Temple, is a powerful reminder of Yah's ongoing plan of redemption. Judah the Maccabee and his warriors, in their courage and devotion, played a critical role in ensuring that the Jewish people could continue worshiping Yah, laying the foundation for the coming of the Messiah. Without their stand, the Jewish faith might have been further threatened, and the stage for Yeshua's birth might not have been set. Yah's plan, however, is never thwarted. His faithfulness to His people is unshakeable, and through the Maccabees' bravery, Israel was preserved for the ultimate fulfillment of the promise in Yeshua, the Light of Redemption for all who will call upon His Name.

In the Hebrew text of **Isaiah 49:6**, we see a profound and prophetic message about the mission of the Messiah. The word for Salvation in this verse is YESHUA, the name of our Messiah! It says:

"It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a Light to the nations, so that My Salvation (יְשׁוּעָה, Yeshua) may reach to the ends of the earth."

Here, we see that the work of Yeshua is not limited to restoring Israel alone. Yah declares that it is too small a thing for the Servant (Yeshua) only to bring back the tribes of Jacob and restore Israel's remnant. Instead, He is appointed to be a Light to the nations so that *Yeshua*—the very name of the Messiah—may bring salvation to the ends of the earth. This is the fulfillment of Yah's promise that through the Messiah, Israel would be the source of blessing to all nations, opening the door of redemption and reconciliation with Yah to the world. The Nations who follow Yeshua become grafted in and partake of the covenant, too! Halleluyah!

B. Scripture Reflection

- Isaiah 49:6: "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a Light to the nations, so that My Salvation (Yeshua) may reach to the ends of the earth."
- John 8:12: "When Yeshua spoke again to the people, He said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"
- Luke 2:32: "A light for revelation to the Nations, and the glory of Your people Israel."
- Matthew 4:16: "The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

C. Prayer

"Blessed are You, Yah, our Elohim, King of the universe,
Who has given us the Light of Yeshua, our Savior, for both Israel and the
Nations.

As we light this second candle, we thank You for the redemption Yeshua
offers everyone, regardless of background.

May His light shine brightly in our lives and all who seek Him.

Help us to share His light with those who need to hear His message of sal-
vation.

In Yeshua's name, Amen."

D. Action/Tzedakah

On this second day of Hanukkah, think of someone—Jewish or Gentile—who may not yet know Yeshua's redemption. Reach out in kindness, prayer, or through an act of service to reflect the light of Yeshua. Consider how you can offer hope and salvation to those around you, sharing the love of Yah with the world.

NOTES:

NIGHT 3



3rd Lighting - Light to my Path

A. Devotional Thought

The story of Hanukkah resonates deeply with the theme of light navigating a path. The Maccabees trusted Yah to direct their steps as they faced insurmountable odds to reclaim and rededicate the Temple. Their journey was marked by faith, obedience, and unwavering commitment to Yah's commandments, even when the path forward was perilous and uncertain.

Just as the Maccabees relied on Yah's guidance, we are called to let His Word light our way. In Yochanan (John) 1, we learn that since Bereshit (Genesis) 1:1, Yeshua has been the Word and Creator. The Torah is often called the Word, and the Hebrew term for the Ten Commandments translates to "Ten Words."

Rekindling the menorah in the Temple symbolizes trusting Yah to provide light, even when resources seem scarce, or the situation appears impossible.

Yah's Word is described as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, illuminating the way forward even when the journey is uncertain or the road seems dark. Through His Word, we receive guidance, wisdom, and assurance that we never walk alone. Yeshua embodies this light as the Word made flesh, walking with us and leading us in truth. As we light this third candle, let us remember to seek His guidance in every decision and trust His direction for our lives.

B. Scripture Reflection

- *Psalm 119:105*: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”
- *Proverbs 3:5-6*: “Trust in Yah with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.”
- *Isaiah 42:16*: “I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.”
This prophetic passage captures the essence of Yah’s promise to guide His people, transforming darkness into light. He kept this promise to the Maccabees and continues to do the same for us when we follow Yeshua as our guide.
- *John 14:6*: “Yeshua answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”

C. Prayer

"Blessed are You, Yah, our Elohim, King of the universe,
Who gives us Your Word as a lamp to guide our steps.

As we light this candle, we thank You for Yeshua, who lights our path and leads us in truth.

We thank You for Hanukkah, reminding us that You will always light our way.

Help us to trust in Your wisdom and walk confidently in the direction You set before us.

May Your light dispel every shadow of doubt and lead us closer to You.
In Yeshua’s name, Amen."

D. Action/Tzedakah

Spend time today reflecting on an area where you need Yah's guidance. Open His Word and ask Him to illuminate your path through Scripture and prayer. Consider sharing a Scripture or encouraging word with someone who may be seeking direction, becoming a light to their path as well.

NOTES:

Celebrating His Light



4th Lighting - Light of Dedication

A. Devotional Thought

Hanukkah reminds us of the rededication of the Temple after Antiochus IV defiled it. Just as the Maccabees cleansed and restored the Temple for Yah's glory, we, too, are called to dedicate our lives to Him, offering our hearts as temples for His presence. Through Yeshua, we are sanctified by the Ruach (Spirit) and empowered to walk in righteousness. As we light the fourth candle of the Hanukkiah, let us reflect on the need to renew our dedication to Yah daily, allowing His light to shine through us as a living testimony of His faithfulness.

We are called to be His light, His Word, and His hands extended to a world in need—reaching out to those who are broken, hurting, lost, or deceived. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 that our bodies are temples of the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) and that we honor Yah by how we live. During this Hanukkah season, may we evaluate the areas of our lives that need rededication and surrender them to Yah's purpose and glory.

If we follow Yeshua, Yah promises to give us the Ruach HaKodesh to help us walk in His statutes and keep His ways (Ezekiel 36:27). Let Hanukkah inspire a renewed commitment to the pursuit of holiness and faithfulness.

B. Scripture Reflection

- *1 Corinthians 6:19-20*: “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Ruach HaKodesh, who is in you, whom you have received from Elohim? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor Elohim with your bodies.”
- *Psalms 51:10-12*: “Create in me a pure heart, O Elohim, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Ruach HaKodesh from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.”
- *Romans 12:1*: “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of Yah’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to Elohim—this is your true and proper worship.”
- *Ezekiel 36:26-27*: “Moreover, I will give you a new heart. I will put a new spirit within you. I will remove the stony heart from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Ruach within you. Then I will cause you to walk in My laws, so you will keep My rulings and do them.”

C. Prayer

"Blessed are You, Yah, our Elohim, King of the universe,
Who sanctifies us and calls us to dedicate ourselves to You.
As we light this fourth candle, we rededicate our lives as temples for Your
glory.

Purify our hearts and renew our spirits to honor You in all we do.

Thank You for the everlasting light of Yeshua, which makes our rededication possible.

In Yeshua’s name, Amen."

D. Action/Tzedakah

On this fourth night of Hanukkah, consider an area of your life that needs rededication to Yah. Spend prayer time, asking Him to reveal where you can culture holiness and faithfulness. Then, take a practical step toward this renewal:

- Begin a new spiritual discipline, such as daily Scripture reading or dedicated prayer time.
- Identify and let go of distractions that may hinder your walk with Yah.
- Dedicate time or resources to serve someone in need—offering comfort, encouragement, or practical help, all for the glory of Yah. Giving Him the credit.

By taking these steps, you actively embody the spirit of rededication and allow Yah's light to shine through you to bless others.

NOTES:

Celebrating His Light

NIGHT 5



5th Lighting - Light of Faith

A. Devotional Thought

The story of Hanukkah is one of unwavering faith. The Maccabees acted in faith, trusting that Yah would deliver Israel from its enemies and that His promises would never fail. Faith is the cornerstone of our relationship with Yah, empowering us to trust Him amidst uncertainty and strengthening us to persevere through trials.

During Hanukkah, many proclaim the powerful words, “‘Not by might, nor by power, but by My Ruach!’ says Adonai-Tzva’ot (יהוה of Hosts),” as a reminder that Yah has delivered His people in the past and will do so again.

Yeshua, the Light of the World, calls us to walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). As we light the fifth candle of the Hanukkiah, we are reminded that faith is “the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Hebrews 11, often called the Faith Hall of Fame, provides a powerful encouragement for how to walk in faith. Faith is not merely intellectual ascent; it is action—the evidence that proves your belief. Yah’s light shines brightly through this active faith, illuminating even the darkest paths.

B. Scripture Reflection

- **Hebrews 11:1:** “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”
- **Psalms 27:1:** “Yah is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? Yah is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?”
- **2 Corinthians 5:7:** “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”
- **Mark 9:23:** “Everything is possible for one who believes.”
- **Zechariah 4:6:** ““Not by might, nor by power, but by My Ruach!” says Adonai-Tzva’ot (יהוה of Hosts).”

C. Prayer

"Blessed are You, Yah, our Elohim, King of the universe,
Who strengthens our faith through Your promises.
As we light this fifth candle, help us to trust in Your unfailing Word,
Even when the way ahead seems unclear.
May the light of Yeshua inspire us to walk by faith and not by sight,
Believing that all things are possible through You.
Thank You for the Maccabees and all our fathers and mothers in the faith,
inspiring us to press forward and trust You.
In Yeshua’s name, Amen."

D. Action/Tzedakah

On this fifth night of Hanukkah, reflect on an area where your faith needs to deepen. Write down a specific promise of Yah from Scripture, and meditate on it throughout the day, allowing His Word to strengthen your trust.

Consider encouraging someone who may be struggling with their faith:

- Share a Scripture that has inspired you.
- Pray with or for them, lifting their concerns before Yah.
- Offer a listening ear with love and empathy, demonstrating the light of Yeshua through your actions.

By nurturing faith in yourself and others, you honor Yah and shine His light brightly into the world.

NOTES:

Celebrating His Light

NIGHT 6



6th Lighting - Light of Hope

A. Devotional Thought

We can't imagine how horrific it must have been for the Maccabees to witness what Antiochus' army was doing to their fellow Hebrews. The suffering they endured is beyond description in this devotional. Indeed, they experienced many moments of despair, struggling to hold on to hope. Yet, even in the face of martyrdom, those who loved Yah held firmly to the hope of the resurrection. In **2 Maccabees 7**, during the martyrdom of the seven brothers and their mother, they express an apparent hope in the resurrection and Yah's recompense.

- One of the brothers declares, "The King of the universe will raise us up to an everlasting renewal of life, because we have died for His laws." (2 Maccabees 7:9)
- Their mother encourages them with hope in Yah's eternal promises, saying, "It was not I who gave you life and breath, but the Creator of the world... will give you back both breath and life again." (2 Maccabees 7:22-23)

In times of despair or uncertainty, hope is the guiding light that keeps us moving forward. Yeshua is our living hope—the one who conquered death and offers us eternal life. His light reminds us that even in the darkest moments, Yah's love is unfailing, His promises are sure, and His plans for us are good. As we light this sixth candle, let us reflect on the hope we have in Yeshua—a hope that anchors our souls and assures us of Yah's faithfulness.

B. Scripture Reflection

- **Jeremiah 29:11:** “For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares Yah, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”
- **Romans 15:13:** “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and shalom as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit).”
- **Hebrews 6:19:** “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”

C. Prayer

"Blessed are You, Yah, our Elohim, King of the universe,
Who has given us the living hope of Yeshua, our Messiah.

As we light this sixth candle, we thank You for the assurance of Your promises and the hope that anchors our souls.

Help us to walk in confidence in Your faithfulness, sharing the light of hope with the lost, hurting, and broken.

May Your hope renew our hearts and guide us into Your perfect shalom.
In Yeshua’s name, Amen."

D. Action/Tzedakah

Think of someone who may feel hopeless or burdened. Reach out to them with a message of encouragement, a prayer, or an act of kindness. Through your words and deeds, share the hope of Yeshua, offering them a glimpse of Yah’s love and faithfulness.

NOTES:

NIGHT 7



7th Lighting - Light of Shalom

A. Devotional Thought

"Then Judah (Maccabee) and his brothers said, 'Behold, our enemies are crushed. Let us go up to cleanse the sanctuary and dedicate it.' So the army assembled and went up to Mount Zion. They found the sanctuary desolate, the altar profaned, and the gates burned. In the courts, they saw bushes growing and the priests' chambers in ruins. Then they tore their clothes and mourned with great lamentation; they sprinkled their heads with ashes and fell face down on the ground. They blew the trumpet, and cried out to heaven. Then Judah detailed men to fight against the enemy's forces and free the people. Later, they decided to celebrate their victory in shalom." (1 Maccabees 4:61)

Shalom is more than just a greeting or peace; it is wholeness, completeness, and harmony—gifts from Yah. Shalom is deeply intertwined with the essence of Hebrew culture. Yeshua, the Prince of Shalom (Sar Shalom), brings true shalom into our lives, reconciling us to Yah and offering rest for our souls. His light dispels the world's chaos, calming our storms and filling us with His abiding presence. As we light this seventh candle, let us remember the deep and enduring shalom that Yeshua brings—a shalom that surpasses all understanding, guarding our hearts and minds in Him.

B. Scripture Reflection

- Isaiah 9:6: “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Shalom.”
- John 14:27: “Shalom I leave with you; My shalom I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”
- Philippians 4:7: “And the shalom of Elohim, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Messiah Yeshua.”

C. Prayer

"Blessed are You, Yah, our Elohim, King of the universe,
Who has given us the Prince of Shalom, Yeshua our Messiah.

As we light this seventh candle, we thank You for the sweet shalom You offer, which restores our hearts and minds.

Help us to rest in Your shalom, trusting in Your goodness and surrendering our worries to You.

May Your light of shalom fill our homes, communities, and the world according to Your will.

In Yeshua's name, Amen."

D. Action/Tzedakah

On this day, seek to bring shalom into someone else's life in a way that aligns with Yah's will and the well-being of all involved. This could mean offering a heartfelt apology for a wrong, reconciling a broken relationship when it is safe and in the best interest of everyone, or praying for shalom over someone struggling. Let your actions reflect the peace and wholeness Yeshua has given you, extending shalom and healing where possible.

NOTES:



8th Lighting - Light of Eternity

A. Devotional Thought

Judah Maccabee and his brothers rededicate the Temple in 1 Maccabees 4:36-61 after the Maccabees' victory over the Seleucid forces and the purification of the desecrated Temple. They celebrate by lighting the menorah and offering sacrifices of thanksgiving to Yah:

1 Maccabees 4:56-59: "And they celebrated it with gladness for eight days, like the Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles), remembering how, not long before, they had celebrated Sukkot in the mountains and caves, when they had fled from the enemy. So, carrying wreathed branches and beautiful palm fronds, they offered the *Hallel Psalms* as hymns of thanksgiving to Him who had established them, and they decreed that the whole nation of the Jews should celebrate these days every year."

From the beginning, Yah's light has been eternal. Yeshua, the Light of the World, reveals the infinite nature of Yah's kingdom—a place without darkness, sorrow, or death. Through Him, we are given the promise of everlasting life. His light transcends the temporary trials of this world, assuring us of an eternal home in His presence. As we light the final candle of the Hanukkah, we remember that His light will never fade, and those who walk in His light will dwell with Him forever. Even when the Hanukkah lights end, Yeshua remains the eternal Light of the World! If we follow Him, we walk in the light, as He Himself is in the light (1 John 1:7).

The prophet Daniel spoke of a time when the righteous would "shine like the brightness of the heavens" (Daniel 12:3), and Revelation reminds us

that in the New Jerusalem, there will be no need for the sun or moon, for Yah's glory will be its light, and the Lamb will be its lamp (Revelation 21:23). This is the eternal light of Yeshua—one that conquers death, ushers in victory, and offers us the hope of eternity.

B. Scripture Reflection

- John 8:12: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
- Daniel 12:3: "Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."
- Revelation 21:23: "The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp."
- Psalm 36:9: "For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light, we see light."

C. Prayer

"Blessed are You, Yah, our Elohim, King of the universe,
Who has given us the eternal Light of Yeshua, the Lamb of Yah.
As we light this final candle, we praise You for the promise of eternity in
Your presence.

Thank You for our hope of a future without darkness or sorrow, where
Your light shines forever.

Help us to walk faithfully in Your light now so we may dwell with You for
eternity.

In Yeshua's name, Amen."

D. Action/Tzedakah

On this final day of Hanukkah, reflect on your eternal purpose and consider how you can share Yah's eternal light with others. You could write a letter of encouragement to someone struggling with their faith, or share the message of salvation with someone seeking hope. Let your actions reflect the eternal light of Yeshua, drawing others to the promise of everlasting life.

NOTES:

Celebrating His Light

Afterword

If this is your first time celebrating one of the Biblical Feasts, I hope this devotional has sparked a hunger in your heart to deepen your understanding of Yah's Appointed Times and Biblical Celebrations. Hanukkah is a beautiful opportunity to reflect on the light of Yeshua in our lives, and I pray this journey has brought you closer to Him.

These Feasts are not merely historical events—but a living bridge connecting our faith's past, present, and future. They always point to Yeshua: what He accomplished in the past, what He fulfilled during His time on Earth, and what He has yet to complete on our behalf in the future. He has fulfilled, is fulfilling, and will fulfill all things in His perfect timing. The Feasts remind us that His work is ongoing, and His promises endure. As you delve deeper into them, may your journey in spirit and truth be enriched, and may you experience the exuberant joy, blessings, and depth they offer.

If you'd like to learn more about Yeshua and the Feasts or if you have questions, I invite you to connect with me through the subscription page on the BatYah website. You'll receive updates on the Appointed Times and other Feast Days discussed in Scripture. You will also find resources to support your journey.

Thank you for joining me in celebrating Hanukkah. May the light of Yeshua shine brightly in your life, now and always!

P.S. A resource list is next; check it out.

Resources

Please take the time to review all resources to ensure they align with your family's values and needs. If you find anything on this list that seems problematic or a hyperlink no longer works, kindly let me know so I can investigate and make necessary updates. Thank you for understanding and helping keep this resource list helpful and safe for everyone.

*** Important Note: Inclusion on this list does not imply endorsement of all beliefs or viewpoints expressed by the listed websites.**

Hannukah Fun

PJ Library **Hanukkah Cheat Sheet** (A Jewish Library that sends free books to Jewish kids every month) <https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/august-2022/hanukkah-2022-with-kids>

Chanukah for Kids by Chabad (Chabad is a branch of Orthodox Judaism. Although followers of Yeshua may not share their beliefs, they have some good resources to understand Judaism and the roots of our faith. This will have crafts, food, videos, and so forth.) https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/354748/jewish/Chanukah.htm

Maccabees Cartoon for Kids (Animated Hero Classic)
<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x627kan>

The Maccabees (A Lego Short Film)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRWZBIhWigE>

Otto's Tales: The Mighty Maccabees (Prager U)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yfjNM_Qbyts

Lights - The Chanukah (Hanukkah) Story - Remastered Circa 1983 (Narrated by Judd Hirsch, other voices by Paul Michael Glaser and Leonard Nimoy) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pm0NEeWDZqc>

13 Fun and easy Hanukkah crafts for kids to make (Hanukkiah, dreidels, Lego dreidel, wall hangings, etc)
<https://www.gathered.how/arts-crafts/hanukkah-crafts>

18 Hanukkah Crafts for Kids (by Spruce Crafts)
<https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/kids-crafts-to-celebrate-hanukkah-4117938>

Crayola Free Coloring Pages and Crafts
<https://www.crayola.com/free-coloring-pages/holidays/chanukah-first-night-coloring-pages/>

Learn About Yah's Appointed Times & Biblical Celebrations

Important Note: On the Moedim, I come into agreement with how the Karaite Jews and somewhat the Orthodox Jews traditionally believe about the layout of days, not with most current Torah observants and many Messianics. Nonetheless, though I disagree with these lists on these teachings, they are good foundational tools to start.

The Seven Biblical Feasts and Followers of Yeshua

Part 1 (Tom Bradford's Torah Class)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_M3IXYqNJZI

The Seven Biblical Feasts and Followers of Yeshua

Part 2 (Tom Bradford's Torah Class)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Ci-6o28ac4>

Introduction to the Feast Days of the Lord

(Passion for Truth Ministries)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5sKZTxQSx8>

NOTES:

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Julianne Lewis

I am a follower of Yeshua, passionate about walking in spirit and truth and helping others deepen their understanding of Yah's Word. I draw inspiration from the ancient path and personal experiences to create devotionals, crafts, and recipes that encourage believers to joyfully celebrate Yah's Biblical Feasts. These include the Moedim (Yah's Appointed Times) and other celebrations found in Scripture.

In addition to writing, I have attended Bible college and am currently studying at a Yeshiva—a traditional Jewish institution of learning focused on Scripture—to grow further in sound knowledge and faith.

I also work with my husband in our law enforcement training company, equipping officers with tools to serve and protect their communities effectively.

As a former victim, I founded a trauma recovery ministry and company dedicated to guiding individuals from surviving to “more than conquering” through faith-based principles, mentorship, and personal empowerment.

My work reflects my commitment to bringing light into the lives of others, whether through professional training, ministry, or writing devotionals like this one. If you'd like to connect or learn more about the Biblical Feasts and their significance, I'd love to hear from you through my BatYah.org website.

The PDF version of this book is offered free of charge because I believe financial barriers should never prevent access to tools for spiritual growth.



Celebrating His Light *Hanukkah Devotionals for Yeshua's Followers*

Hanukkah is more than the Festival of Lights—it is a celebration of faith, miracles, and the enduring hope that Yah has promised to His people. This devotional book invites you to experience the deeper significance of Hanukkah (Dedication), exploring how it points to Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) and His work in the past, present, and future. Through daily reflections, Scriptures, and practical applications, you will be encouraged to walk in the light of His truth and draw closer to Him during this special season.

Whether you are new to observing Hanukkah or looking to deepen your understanding, this book offers a meaningful way to celebrate the miracles of Yah and the victory of His light over darkness.

About the Author

Julianne Lewis is a follower of Yeshua, passionate about helping others connect with the rich traditions and eternal truths found in Scripture. Through her writing, she encourages believers to experience the fullness of Yah's Moedim (appointed times) and Biblical celebrations and to live in spirit and truth.

Visit Batyah.org to learn more and connect!

