



# חנוכה THE HISTORY OF HANUKKAH

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A close-up photograph of a Hanukkah menorah with nine lit candles. The candles are in various colors (yellow, orange, red) and are arranged in a row. The menorah is made of a dark metal, possibly brass or bronze, and has a traditional design with a central stem and two side stems. The background is dark and out of focus.

# Festival of Lights

- At its core, Hanukkah(חנוכה) is a celebration of triumph, dedication, and miracles.
- In 168 B.C.E., the prince of Syria banned all Jewish traditions. He also turned the Holy Second Temple into an alter to Zeus.
- Mattathius and his five sons began a revolt against the prince. Two years later, his son, Judah Macabee, became the new leader and restored the Holy Second Temple.
- When the war was over, there was only enough oil to light the menorah for one night. However, almost as if by some miracle, the oil burned for eight nights. This is why we have the Hanukiah and celebrate Hanukkah for eight nights.



# The celebration

- ❖ It is a tradition to eat foods fried in oil such as jelly donuts and latkes (potato pancakes). Latkes are often served with apple sauce or sour cream.
- ❖ Lighting the menorah – there are 9 candles on the Hanukiah. The one in the center is called the shamas. The shamas is the helper candle used only to light the other candles. The rest of the candles are put in one at a time, one for each night. The candles are allowed to and burn down each night, requiring a total of 44 candles for the eight nights.
- ❖ Families sing traditional songs and give one gift per night.
- ❖ Children play dreidel with gelt (chocolate coins).



# Dreidel

- Shin – put one in
- Hey – get half
- Nun – get none
- Gimel – get all





# Fun Facts

- Hanukkah (חנוכה) means dedication in Hebrew
- Hanukkah is the only Jewish holiday that is not in Torah, as the events occurred after it was written.
- Menorah means lamp. It traditionally has 7 candles while a Hanukiah (a type of menorah for Hanukkah ) has nine candles.
- Gifts were not traditionally given out during Hanukkah, but due to the fact that Hanukkah generally falls around Christmas, the gift exchange became a part of the tradition.
- There are 16 different ways to spell Hanukkah (חנוכה) because the word is not directly translated from English.



Have a Happy

**Chanuka**

**Chanukah**

**Chanukkah**

**Channukah**

**Hanukah**

**Hannukah**

**Hanukkah**

**Hanuka**

**Hanukka**

# Fun Facts

- Hanukkah was not celebrated until the 1800s
- Chag sameach = Happy Hanukkah
- In 1945 Harry Truman was the first President to celebrate Hanukkah in the White House
- Kamala Harris celebrates Hanukkah among other holidays
- In fact the first mezuzah was put in the Vice President's residence at the US Naval Observatory
- What is a mezuzah? A case with a shin (Hebrew character) holds a scroll with the shema prayer
- The correct way to light a menorah or a Hanukiah is left to right, but the candles are placed right to left

