

HANUKKAH ≠ X-MASS

John 10:22-23

TRADITIONAL BLESSINGS OVER THE HANUKKAH LIGHTS

Recite or sing these blessings as you light the Hanukkiyah each night during Hanukkah:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, asher kid'shanu b-mitzvotav, v-tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.

Blessed are you, Our God, Ruler of the Universe, who makes us holy through Your commandments, and commands us to light the Hanukkah lights.

Deu 4:2; 12:32

Prov 30:6

Rev 22:18-19

1 Mac 1:20-25, 41-64

2 Mac 10:1-8

1 Mac 4:47-59

Titus 1:13-14

The Babylonian Talmud Shabbat 21b.



Babylonian Talmud

The Gemara asks: What is Hanukkah, and why are lights kindled on Hanukkah? The Gemara answers: The Sages taught in Megillat Ta'anit: On the twenty-fifth of Kislev, the days of Hanukkah are eight. One may not eulogize on them and one may not fast on them. What is the reason? When the Greeks entered the Sanctuary they defiled all the oils that were in the Sanctuary by touching them. And when the Hasmonean monarchy overcame them and emerged victorious over them, they searched and found only one cruse of oil that was placed with the seal of the High Priest, undisturbed by the Greeks. And there was sufficient oil there to light the candelabrum for only one day. A miracle occurred and they lit the candelabrum from it eight days. The next year the Sages instituted those days and made them holidays with recitation of hallel and special thanksgiving in prayer and blessings.

Date: 450-550 C.E. (based on scholarly estimates)

[Source](#)

2 Chron 29:15-19

Deu 12:1-4