

**“Rosh Hashanah  
Meets Hanukkah”**



**Looking for the Coming Messiah**

**Celebrating the Holidays  
with Your Whole Family**

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## **Celebrating Rosh Hashanah (Yom Teruah)**

### **Background**

Time of Year: Hebrew month: Tishri (Fall – September/October e.g., October 4, 2024).

Yom Teruah is the Biblical name for the Feast. Yom is Day and Teruah is the alarm blast of the Shofar (i.e., the ram’s horn trumpet).

Rosh Hashanah has replaced Yom Teruah in modern Judaism. It means “Head of the Year” and has become the Jewish New Year. Biblically, the new year starts in the Spring on Nissan 1, two weeks before Passover—roughly around March/April).

Yom Teruah (Rosh Hashanah) is a call to WAKE UP! from our spiritual slumber.

**Joel 2:1 “Blow a trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the land's inhabitants tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming. Surely it is near.”**

### **How to Celebrate:**

1. Plan a Day of Rest – Shabbat – “A Day of Delight”

Decorate (Blue and white suggested, use Stars of David, shofars, etc.)

Play background praise music.

Welcome your guests. Men are invited to put on a Kippah (Yarmulke). Serve sweets

- a. Begin with Lighting the Shabbat Candles at sundown.  
e.g., First light two candles, lit by a woman or mature girl.
- b. Second, recite the Blessing for the Candle Lighting.

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, e-lo-hay-nu me-lech ha-olam, a-sher ki-de-sha-nu be-Y’shu-a, a-sher bish-mo mad-li-kim a-nach-nu ner shel yom tov.**

**Amein**

**Blessed are you, O L-RD our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us in Y’shua, in whose name we light the light on this good day. Amen**

- c. Kadesh blessing with Grape Juice (First provide cups of grape juice for each person, children included. Second, recite the blessing, then all drink.)

**Ba-ruch a-tah Ado-nai, e-lo-hay-nu me-lech ha-o-lam, bo-ray p’ree ha-ga-fen.**

**Amein**

**Blessed are you, O L-RD our G-d, King of the universe, creator of the fruit of the vine. Amen**

d. The Challah Blessing

(First, recite the blessing, then pass the *challah* around and each tear off a piece and eat it, or a server tears off pieces and hands them to each person.)

**Ba-ruch a-tah -A-do-nai, e-lo-hay-nu me-lech ha-o-lam, ha-mo-tzee le-chem emet min ha'shameem . Amein**

**Blessed are you, O L-RD our G-d, King of the universe, who brings forth the true bread from heaven. Amen**

2. Recite the Holiday Blessings

**Shema Yisrael Adonai Elohaynu Adonai echad. Baruch shem kivod malchuto l'olam va-ed!**

**Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One. Blessed be His glorious Name whose kingdom is forever and ever. Deuteronomy 6:4:**

**Baruch Ata Adonai Elohaynu Melech HaOlam, she-he-chay-yah-nu, v'kee-y'mah-nu v'hi- gee-ah-nu laz-man ha-zeh!**

**Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season!**

**Barchu et Adonai Hamvorach! Baruch Adonai Hamvorach l'olam va'ed!**

**Bless the Lord who is to be acknowledged as far greater than we are! Blessed be the Lord who is blessed forever and ever!**

3. Remember God Giving the Ten Commandments and His Life Instructions on Mt. Sinai (cf. Exodus 19-20)

**Exodus 20:2 “I am the Lord your God...”**

“Here are My Lifestyle Commands—the things I expect of you as My people.”

e.g., Play “Yeshua says...” Game (Like “Simon says.”)

4. Blow the Shofar

(Note: Play a recording from YouTube if you don't have one. Or blow some other horn).

Each time it's sounded, we remember one of the following:

- a. God giving of His Laws (His Life Instructions) on Mt. Sinai. (cf. Exodus 19-20)

**Psalm 19:7 “The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul...”**

- b. Abraham almost sacrificing his son; God actually sacrificing His Son. (cf. Genesis 22)

**John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”**

- c. God's Kingship and Authority in Our Lives

**1 Kings 1:34 “You are our King, O Lord. May You have charge over my life this year.”**

- d. Our Need to Repent

**Joel 2:12-13 “Yet even now,” declares the Lord,  
“Return to Me with all your heart,  
And with fasting, weeping and mourning;  
And rend your heart and not your garments.”  
Now return to the Lord your God,  
For He is gracious and compassionate,  
Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness  
And relenting of evil.**

**John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

- e. Our Call to Worship God.

**Psalm 150:3 “Praise Him with trumpet sound...”**

(e.g., Recite His Attributes. Blow a horn after each declaration).

- f. Our Looking Forward to the Return of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus).

**1 Thessalonians 4:16 “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.”**

e.g., Look outside a window and reflect on the return of Jesus.

g. Our Looking Forward to the Conquering King Messiah's Return.

**Zephaniah 1:14,16** "Near is the great day of the Lord. Near and coming very quickly....A day of trumpet and battle cry."

e.g., Wearing crowns

e.g., Blowing the shofar (horns).

5. A Time of Self-examination and Repentance (i.e., T'suvah)

e.g., Privately write out some of your sins on a piece of paper and then shred them.

**Psalm 103:12** "As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us."

6. Celebrate with Eating and Socializing (i.e., "Nosh and Schmoozing")

a. Serve Apples Dipped in Honey

**"May the Lord give us a sweet new year!"**

b. Open and Observe a Pomegranate

**"May your good deeds be as numerous as the seeds."**

c. Serve Honey Cake or Dates

**Psalm 119:103** "How sweet are Your words to my taste! *Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*"

d. March around room blowing 'shofar' like at Jericho

## Celebrating Hanukkah

Time of Year: Kislev 25th (mid to late December) e.g., December 25, 2024

Hanukkah is an extra-Biblical feast that commemorates the success of the Jews driving out the Syrian Greeks in 165 BC.

The Talmud says that when the Beit HaMikdosh (The Temple) was recaptured, the Kadosh (The Holy Place) and the Kadosheem (The Holy of Holies) were desecrated. They had to be cleansed and purified.

A small cruse of special olive oil for the great menorah that was to be continually lit to illuminate the Kadosh was found, only enough for one day. It would take eight days to make more special oil.

As an act of faith the priests filled the menorah and lit it anyway. The oil lasted for 8 days. Because the Syrian Greeks had controlled the Beit HaMikdosh for several years, the Jews couldn't celebrate Sukkot (The Feast of Tabernacles).

After the Beit HaMikdosh was purified, Sukkot was celebrated for eight days and the rededication of the Beit HaMikdosh was celebrated as well (for eight days). From then on, the festival of Hanukah was celebrated on the 25<sup>th</sup> of the Hebrew month Kislev.

### Jesus and Hanukkah

- Jesus attended a Hanukkah Celebration

**John 10:22-23 “At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon.”**

- Hanukkah is the Feast of Lights; Jesus is the Light of the World (cf. John 8)

### How to Celebrate:

1. The traditional greeting for Hanukkah is “**Hag Oreem Samech**”

**“Happy Feast of Lights!”**

2. We Remember

- a. The Brave Maccabees and the Miracles God did to Save His People.
- b. God's Creation of Light (Genesis 1:2)
- c. The Burning Bush (Exodus 3:1-5)
- d. The Pillar of Fire in the Forty Years of Wanderings (Exodus 13:21-22)

3. Recite the Shema from Deuteronomy 6:4:

**Shema Yisrael Adonai Elohaynu Adonai echad.  
Baruch shem kivod malchuto l'olam va-ed!**

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One.  
Blessed be His glorious Name whose kingdom is forever and ever.

4. On the First Night

On the first night, place one candle in the Hanukkiah's far right as you face the hanukkiah (candle holder).

Another candle is placed in the special Shamash location (i.e. The Helper or Servant Candle).

Say the blessings as indicated below and then light the Shamash candle and use it to light the other candle (s).

a. First Blessing to Recite

**Baruch Ata Adonai Elohaynu Melech HaOlam Asher Kiddeshanu  
Ba-mitsvotov Vet-sivanu Lehadlik Ner Shel Hanukkah.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us by His commandments, and has commanded us to kindle the lights of Hanukkah.

b. Second Blessing to Recite

**Baruch Ata Adonai Elohaynu Melech HaOlam Sheoso Nissim Laavoteynu  
Bayomim Hoheym Ba-azman Hazze.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who wrought miracles for our fathers in days of old, at this season

c. Third Blessing to Recite (only on the first night of Hanukkah)

**Baruch Ata Adonai Elohaynu Melech HaOlam, she-he-chay-yah-nu, v'kee-  
y'mah-nu v'hi-gee-ah-nu laz-man ha-zeh!**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has kept us alive, and has preserved us, and enabled us to reach this time.

5. How to Light on the Second through Eighth Night

On the second night, place two candles in the Hanukkiah's far right (as you face the Hanukkiah) candle holders.

Another candle is placed for the Shamash (The Helper Candle).



Say the first two blessings above and light the Shamash candle, then light the candles using the Shamash candle.

Light the left-most candle first and then light in order, from left to right. Follow this procedure for each night of Hanukkah.

6. For the lighting of each candle, meditate on these things:

(Have someone light each of the eight candles)

a. Shamash (Servant) Candle.

Messiah Yeshua stated in **Mark 10:44-45** “Whoever wishes to be first among you shall be the servant of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

b. First Candle - Y’shua is the Light of the World.

**John 8:12** Then Y’shua again spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of Life.”

**Isaiah 9:2** “The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.”

c. Second Candle - God is Light

**John 1:1** “This is the message we heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.”

d. Third Candle - Y’shua is our Deliverer

**Hebrews 2:14-15** “Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.”

e. Fourth Candle - God’s Word Provides Light

**Psalms 119:105** “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

**Psalms 119:130** “The unfolding of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.”

f. Fifth Candle - Messiah Y'shua is the Mishkan (The Tabernacle) Beit HaMikdosh (The Temple)

**John 1:14** “The Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us, and we saw His glory, the glory of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

**Revelation 21:3** “And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them. . .’”

f. Sixth Candle - After we come to know Messiah, we are to be a source of light for the world.

**Matthew 5:14-16:** “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lamp stand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

g. Seventh Candle – Nations will come to His Light.

The prophet Isaiah speaks of the future glory of a restored Israel:

**Isaiah 60:1-3:** Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you...And nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”

h. Eighth Candle – Y'shau is the Light of the New Jerusalem.

A description of our glorious eternal dwelling place in the New Jerusalem:

**Revelation 21:22-27** “And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. And the nations shall walk by its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it.”

7. A Time of Repentance and Rededication of Our Temples.

Since Hanukkah commemorates the purification and rededication of the Beit HaMikdosh, it is a good time to repent and rededicate our lives to serve Y'shua.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** “...do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”

e.g., Slips “What I Want to Do for Jesus This Year.” (Put in envelope and save).

8. Eating.

After lighting the candles each night and reciting the blessings, eat foods fried in oil to remember the miracle of the oil, (jelly doughnuts, latkes, etc.)

9. Playing. (cf. Instructions for Playing the Dreidel Game)

Play Game. Sing Dreidel song. Giving of Gelt/small gifts

10. Singing.

Learn and sing traditional songs like: *Maoz Tzur*, *O' Chanukah*, *I Have a Little Dreidel*, etc. (YouTube is a good source for these)

e.g., *Trees of the Field*

*... You shall go out with joy  
And be led forth with peace  
The mountains and the hills  
Will break forth before you  
There'll be shouts of joy  
And all the trees of the field  
Will clap, will clap their hands*

*... And all the trees of the field will clap their hands  
The trees of the field will clap their hands  
The trees of the field will clap their hands  
While you go out with joy*

*... You shall go out with joy  
And be led forth with peace  
The mountains and the hills  
Will break forth before you  
There'll be shouts of joy  
And all the trees of the field  
Will clap, will clap their hands*

*... And all the trees of the field will clap their hands  
The trees of the field will clap their hands  
The trees of the field will clap their hands  
While you go out with joy*

*... And all the trees of the field will clap their hands  
The trees of the field will clap their hands  
The trees of the field will clap their hands  
While you go out with joy*

*... And all the trees of the field will clap their hands  
The trees of the field will clap their hands  
The trees of the field will clap their hands  
While you go out with joy*

*... And all the trees of the field will clap their hands  
The trees of the field will clap their hands  
The trees of the field will clap their hands  
While you go out with joy*

*... While you go out with joy* (Songwriters: Stuart Dauermann/Steffi Rubin)

## How to Play the Dreidel Game:

You will need a dreidel, some gelt (chocolate coins, nuts, m&M's or gold-wrapped chocolate candy—remember these will be handled before eaten) and a large enough flat surface to spin a dreidel unimpeded.

On the sides of a dreidel used outside of Israel, you will find the Hebrew letters: נ Nun, ג Gimel, ה Hey, and ש Shin. They stand for *Nes Gadol Hayah Sham*, which means: “A Great Miracle Happened There!” In the land of Israel, a פ Pey will replace the ש Shin and will remind us that “A Great Miracle Happened Here!”

Each player gets an equal amount of gelt to start. Begin by each player putting one piece of gelt in the central collection.

Each turn the player spins the dreidel and puts gelt in or takes them out of central collections as follows:



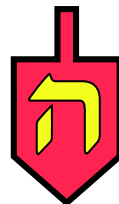
• Gimel - get all that is in the middle (“get”)



• Nun - does nothing (“none”)



• Shin - put one in the middle (“share”)



• Hey - get half of the amount in the middle (“half”)

If the central collection becomes empty, each player puts in one gelt and the game continues.

The game ends when one player has won all the gelt (that has not already been eaten). And as this is only a game, that player may choose to share this gelt with all the other players so the game can begin again or noone goes home empty-handed.