

Baruch Hashem!
Luach for Week of Miketz
Chabad NP - www.chabadnp.com
3-10 Tevet 5781 / December 18-25

Friday, 3 Tevet - Chanukah day #8

- **Shabbat Candle Lighting**

Light Candles at 4:35 PM

- Kabbalat Shabbat - (P. 154)
- Kiddush on p. 179

- *"Zot Chanukah"*

The eighth day of Chanukah is also known as Zot Chanukah (lit., "this is Chanukah"), after a key phrase in the special Chanukah Torah reading for this day (Numbers 7:54-8:4).

In the Jewish calendar, the day begins at nightfall; thus, the last kindling of the Chanukah lights is held on the evening preceding the 8th day of Chanukah, when eight lights are lit. The festival of Chanukah concludes at nightfall this evening.

It is customary, however, to light candles during the daytime as well, in synagogues, in public spaces, and at gatherings held in honor of the festival. These lightings are done without recitation of the blessings as they do not constitute an observance of the mitzvah of kindling the Chanukah lights.

- *Hallel & Al HaNissim*

Special prayers of thanksgiving -- are added to the daily prayers on all eight days of Chanukah:

1. [V'Al HaNissim](#) (Mariv - p. 129, Shacharit - p. 51, Mincha p. 109) and in [Grace After Meals](#) (p. 90).

2. Hallel (p. 307-311, in its full version) is added following the Amida of Shacharit.
3. Tachnun (confession of sins. Shacharit - p. 54-60, Mincha - p. 112-114) and similar prayers are omitted for the duration of the festival.

- **Today in Jewish History**

Death of Jacob Frank (1791)

Jacob Frank claimed to be the reincarnation of the false Messiah Shabbetai Zvi. In the mid-1700's, he sought to create a new religion that would incorporate both Judaism and Christianity, leading to the formation of the Frankist sect, centered in Poland. Many rabbis of the time, including the [Baal Shem Tov](#), battled the new sect and its leader vigorously and successfully halted their influence.

4 Tevet - Shabbat Miketz - 3rd night of Chanukah

[Torah Reading](#)

Miketz: [Genesis 41:1-44:17](#)

Haftarah: [Kings I 3:15-4:1](#)

- Kiddush for Shabbat day on p. 249.
- Shabbat Ends at **5:37 PM**
- [Havdalah](#) on p. 297

- **Today in Jewish History**

Passing of R. Gershon Henoch Leiner (1890)

R. Gershon Henoch was a Polish Rebbe centered in the town of Radzyn. He is famous for his efforts in reinstating the [tekhelet](#)—the blue wool mentioned in Scripture, that is to be attached to each corner of the [tzitzit](#) garment. The blue color derives from a marine creature known as the chilazon, the identity of which has been forgotten over centuries of exile. R. Gershon Henoch identified the chilazon with the cuttlefish.

Sunday, 5 Tevet

- **Today in Jewish History**

News of Jerusalem's Defeat Reaches Babyonia (422 BCE)

In 434 BCE, [Nebuchadnezzar](#) king of Babylon invaded Judea, [exiling King Jehoiachin](#) and thousands of Judean notables to Babylon. Eleven years later, the Nebuchadnezzar's army invaded Jerusalem again, [setting fire to the Temple](#) and massacring its inhabitants. The tragic news reached the Babylonian exiles five months later, on 5 Teves 422 BCE (Ezekiel 33:21). According to a minority opinion, this day is commemorated as a fast day (Talmud, Tractate Rosh Hashanah 18b).

- *Sefarim victory (1987)*

[Tevet 5](#) is celebrated as a [day of rejoicing](#) in the Chabad-Lubavitch community. On this date in 1987, U.S. Federal Court issued a decision in favor of Agudas Chassidei Chabad ("Union of Chabad Chassidim") regarding the ownership of the priceless [library](#) of the 6th Rebbe of Chabad-Lubavitch, [Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn](#). The ruling was based on the idea that a Rebbe is not a private individual but a communal figure synonymous with the body of Chassidim. [The Lubavitcher Rebbe](#) (Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak's son-in-law and successor) urged that the occasion be marked with time devoted to study from Torah books ("sefarim") as well as the acquisition of new Torah books.

Tuesday, 7 Tevet

- [Sanctification of the Moon](#)

Once a month, as the moon waxes in the sky, we recite a special blessing called [Kiddush Levanah](#), "the sanctification of the moon," praising the Creator for His wondrous work we call astronomy.

[Kiddush Levanah](#) (p. 301) is recited following Maariv if the moon is visible. Though Kiddush Levanah can be recited as early as three days after the moon's rebirth, the kabbalah tells us it is best to wait a full week, till the seventh of the month.

Once 15 days (Tuesday, Dec. 29th) have passed, the moon begins to wane once more and the season for saying the blessing has passed.

- If you don't have anyone to say Shalom Aleichem (p. 302) to (live or virtually), skip that part.

- **Today in Jewish History**

Passing of R. Tzvi, Son of the Baal Shem Tov (1780)

After the passing of the [Baal Shem Tov](#) on [Shavuot](#) 1760, R. Tzvi succeeded him as leader of the [Chassidic](#) movement. Exactly one year later, R. Tzvi announced to his disciples that his father had appeared to him in a vision and instructed him to transfer the leadership to [R. Dovber, the Maggid of Mezeritch](#).

Wednesday, 8 Tevet

- **Today in Jewish History**

Torah translated into Greek (246 BCE)

In a second attempt to translate the Torah into Greek (after an unsuccessful attempt 61 years earlier), the [ruling Greek-Egyptian emperor Ptolemy](#) gathered 72 Torah sages, had them sequestered in 72 separate rooms, and ordered them to each produce a translation. On the 8th of Tevet of the year 3515 from creation (246 BCE) they produced 72 corresponding translations, including identical changes in 13 places (where they each felt that a literal translation would constitute a corruption of the Torah's true meaning). This Greek rendition became known as the Septuagint, "of the seventy" (though later versions that carry this name are not believed to be true to the originals). Greek became a significant second language among Jews as a result of this translation. During Talmudic times, Tevet 8 was observed by some as [a fast day](#), expressing the fear of the detrimental effect of the translation.

Thursday, 9 Tevet

- **Chabad NP Dates**

Yartzheit of [Penina Bat Leah \(Pearl\) Kardos](#) mother of Ron Kardos.

- **Today in Jewish History**

Passing of Ezra (313 BCE)

[Ezra, who led the return of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel after the Babylonian exile \(423-353 BCE\)](#), oversaw the building of the Second Temple, canonized [the 24 books of the Holy Scriptures \("bible"\)](#) and, as head of the "[Great Assembly](#)" legislated a series of laws and practices (including formalized prayer) which left a strong imprint on Judaism to this very day, passed away on the 9th of Tevet of the year 3448 from creation (313 BCE -- exactly 1000 years after the [Giving of the Torah](#) on Mount Sinai). [The passing of Ezra marked the end of the "Era of Prophecy"](#).

- *Saddam Hussein Hanged (2006)*

After being found guilty of crimes against humanity, the evil Iraqi dictator [Saddam Hussein was put to death](#). Hussein was responsible for the Kuwait invasion that sparked the First Gulf War, and subsequently [launched tens of SCUD missiles against Israel](#).

Friday, 10 Tevet – Fast Day

- **Fast Begins at 5:54 AM**
- **Shabbat Candle Lighting at 4:39PM**
- **Fast Ends at 5:27 PM**

- *Fast Day*

[Tevet 10](#) is observed as a day of fasting, mourning and repentance, in remembrance of the siege of Jerusalem. We refrain from food and drink from daybreak to nightfall.

Selichot prayers (p. 427-434 & p. 447 from “Zechor Rachamecha” - p. 452) are included in the morning prayer before the “Avinu Malkeinu” prayer on page 59. Following the Selichot the long Avinu Malkeinu (p. 454-456) is recited. Afterwards we continue with the morning prayers on page 60. If one is fasting the “Aneinu” paragraph is inserted in the Mincha Amida (p. 108).

(More recently, Tevet 10 was chosen to also serve as a "general kaddish day" for the victims of the [Holocaust](#), many of whose day of martyrdom is unknown.)

- Kabbalat Shabbat - (P. 154)
- Kiddush on p. 179

- **Today in Jewish History**

Siege of Jerusalem (425 BCE)

On the [10th of Tevet](#) of the year 3336 from Creation (425 BCE), [the armies of the Babylonian emperor Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem](#). Thirty months later -- on [Tammuz 17, 3338](#) -- the city walls were breached, and on [9 Av of that year](#), the Holy Temple was destroyed. The Jewish people were exiled to Babylonia for 70 years.

Thoughts to ponder:

Eternal Light

The flames of the Temple Menorah have been dark for many centuries, but the flames of the Chanukah menorah can never be extinguished.

Even in the darkest of times, even in Hitler's camps and in Stalin's Gulag, those flames shone brightly.

Even the mighty winds of oppression and of assimilation have never succeeded to tear them from their wicks.

Because the flames of the Temple Menorah were given to us from heaven above. But the flames of the Chanukah Menorah shine by our own achievement on earth below, wrought of Jewish blood and self-sacrifice, of our undying commitment to the generations to come.

A flame gifted from heaven may at times fade, but the flames we have squeezed from the depths of our own souls will shine forever.