

## The Story - חַנּוּכָּה - CHANUKAH<sup>1</sup>

“The Festival of Lights” celebrates the rededication of Jerusalem’s Second Temple<sup>2</sup> to G-D over 8 days.<sup>3</sup> The Greek tyrant King Antiochus IV, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BC, attempted to eradicate the Jewish religion with cruel oppression and desecrated The Temple Altar with sacrifices of unclean animals to false deities. The Maccabees led the Jewish people in successful revolt to free the nation and rededicated The Temple to G-D. Although there was only enough holy oil for the Temple’s menorah light for one day, it miraculously burned for eight days, exactly time needed to prepare new holy oil.

## The Prayer – Blessing for CHANUKAH<sup>4</sup>

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם

*BARUCH ATTAH ADONAI, ELOHEINU, MELECH HA'OLAM!*

Blessed are You, Lord, our G-D, Sovereign of the universe!

שְׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה: (אָמֵן)

*SHE'ASAH NISIM LA'AVOTEINU BAYAMIM HAHEIM BAZIMAN HAZEH! (AMEIN)*

Who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days at this time! AMEN!

## The Hymn – “Rock of Ages!”<sup>5</sup>

Rock of Ages, let our song - Praise Thy saving power;

Thou, amidst the raging foes, - Wast our sheltering tower.

Furious they assailed us, - But Thine arm availed us,

And Thy Word - Broke their sword - When our own strength failed us!

Kindling new the holy lamps, - Priests, approved in suffering,

Purified the nation's shrine, - Brought to G-D their offering.

And His courts surrounding -Hear, in joy abounding,

Happy throngs, -Singing songs - With a mighty sounding!

Children of the martyr race, - Whether free or fettered,

Wake the echoes of the songs -Where ye may be scattered.

Yours the message cheering -That the time is nearing

Which will see -All men free, - Tyrants disappearing!

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<sup>1</sup> "CHANUKAH." Judaism 101. Tracey R. Rich. 1995 - 2011. <http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday7.htm> Retrieved 12/12/2014.

<sup>2</sup> The First Temple, dedicated by Solomon, was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC. The Second Temple, rededicated under Nehemiah and Ezra, was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.

<sup>3</sup> CHANUKAH in the current Jewish year of 5775, always celebrated on the 25<sup>th</sup> of Kislev, begins at sundown on Tuesday, 12/16/2014 and ends at sundown on Wednesday, 12/23/2014. The Day of CHRISTMAS Eve this year is Thursday, 12/24/2014.

<sup>4</sup> "Chanukah Candle Lighting Blessings." Judaism 101. Tracey R. Rich. 1995 - 2011. <http://www.jewfaq.org/chanukahref.htm>. Retrieved 12/12/2014.

<sup>5</sup> Hymn, "MA'OZ TZUR - Rock of Ages." Paraphrased by Marcus Jastrow (1829-1903) and Gustav Gottheil (1827-1903) from the German hymn by Leopold Stein (1810-1882).

<http://www.chazzanut.com/chanukah.html>. Retrieved 12/12/2014.