

THE BEREKHU

LEADER / OLAH

BAREKHU ET ADONIA HA'ME'VO-RAKH

BLESS THE LORD, WHO IS TO BE BLESSED

CONGREGATION / OLIM

BARUCH ADONAI HA'ME'VO-RAKH LA OLAM VA'ED

BLESSED IS ADONAI, WHO IS BLESSED FOREVER AND EVER

מִקֵּץ

Miketz

Hebrew for “At the end or From The
End”

Bereishit / Genesis 41:1 – 44:17

Reading Genesis 43:30 – 44:17

Blessing The Reading Of The Torah

**Barukh ata Adonai Eloheynu, melekh ha-olam,
Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe**

**Asher bechar banu mik-kol ha-am-mim venatan la-nu et
Torato,**

Who chose us from all the people and gave us His Torah

**Baruch ata Adonai, no-tein Ha-Torah
Blessed are you, Lord, giver of the Torah**

Blessing over the reader of Torah

May He who blessed our fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob bless
XXXXXXXXXX because he has come up for the honor of God, for the
honor of the Torah and for the honor of the Shabbat. In this merit
may the Holy One, Blessed be He, protect and deliver XXXXX from
all trouble and distress, from all affliction and illness, and may He
send blessing and success to all his endeavors, together with all
Israel and all his brethren;
and the congregation says,
In Yeshua's Name
Amen.

Genesis 43:30 - 32

30 Then Joseph hurried out because his compassion grew warm and tender toward his brother so that he wanted to cry. So he went into an inner room and wept there.

31 Then he washed his face, came out, and controlled himself. "Serve the food," he said.

32 So they served him by himself, them by themselves, and the Egyptians who were eating with him by themselves (for Egyptians could not eat with the Hebrews because it was an abomination to Egyptians).

Genesis 43:33 – 44:1

33 They were seated before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth. The men looked at each other in astonishment.

34 Then portions were brought to them from before him—and Benjamin's portion was five times larger than any of their portions. Yet they drank and made merry with him.

44:1 Then he commanded the one over his household saying, "Fill the men's sacks with as much food as they are able to carry and put money in the opening of each man's sack.

Genesis 44:2 - 4

2 Put my cup, the silver cup, in the opening of the sack of the youngest along with his grain money.” So he did as Joseph told him.

3 When the morning dawned, the men were sent off, they and their donkeys.

4 They left the city and did not get far, when Joseph said to the one over his household, “Get up, go after the men. When you catch up to them, say to them, “Why have you repaid evil for good?”

Genesis 44:5 - 7

5 Isn't this the one from which my lord drinks? He even uses it especially to discern by divination. What you've done is evil!"

6 So he caught up to them and spoke these words to them.

7 They said to him, "Why does my lord say such things? Far be it from your servants to do such a thing as this.

Genesis 44:8 – 10

8 Look, the money we found in the opening of our bags, we brought back to you from the land of Canaan. So how could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house?

9 Whoever among your servants is found with it, let him die! And we, we'll also be my lord's slaves."

10 "Even now let it be according to your words," he said. "The one with whom it is found shall be my slave. But the rest of you shall be innocent."

Genesis 44:11 - 13

11 Then each man quickly lowered his sack to the ground and each man opened his sack.

12 He searched them beginning with the eldest and finishing with the youngest, and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

13 Then they tore their clothing, and each one loaded up his donkey and they returned to the city.

Genesis 44:14 - 17

14 When Judah and his brothers entered Joseph's house, he was still there. They fell to the ground before him.

15 "What's this deed you've done?" Joseph said to them, "Didn't you know that a man like me can discern by divination?"

16 Then Judah said, "What can we say to my lord? What can we speak? How can we justify ourselves? God has exposed your servants' guilt. We are now my lord's slaves—both we as well as the one in whose hand the cup was found."

17 But he said, "Far be it from me to do this. The one in whose hand the cup was found—he will be my slave. But you, go up to your father in peace."



First Century Ministries

Parsha Miketz

- Joseph's imprisonment finally ends when Pharaoh dreams of seven fat cows that are swallowed up by seven lean cows, and of seven fat ears of grain swallowed by seven lean ears.
- Joseph interprets the dreams to mean that seven years of plenty will be followed by seven years of hunger, and advises Pharaoh to store grain during the plentiful years. Pharaoh appoints Joseph governor of Egypt.
- Joseph marries Asenath, daughter of Potiphar, and they have two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.
- Famine spreads throughout the region, and food can be obtained only in Egypt.
- Ten of Joseph's brothers come to Egypt to purchase grain; the youngest, Benjamin, stays home, for Jacob fears for his safety.

Parsha Miketz

- Joseph recognizes his brothers, but they do not recognize him; he accuses them of being spies, insists that they bring Benjamin to prove that they are who they say they are, and imprisons Simeon as a hostage.
- Later, they discover that the money they paid for their provisions has been mysteriously returned to them.
- Jacob agrees to send Benjamin only after Judah assumes personal and eternal responsibility for him.
- This time Joseph receives them kindly, releases Simeon, and invites them to an eventful dinner at his home.
- Joseph plants his silver goblet, purportedly imbued with magic powers, in Benjamin's sack. When the brothers set out for home the next morning, they are pursued, searched, and arrested when the goblet is discovered.
- Joseph offers to set them free and retain only Benjamin as his slave.

Yeshua And Hanukkah

John 10

22 Then came Hanukkah (***Dedication***); it was winter in Jerusalem.

23 Yeshua was walking in the Temple around Solomon's Colonnade.

24 Then the Judean leaders surrounded Him, saying, "How long will You hold us in suspense? If You are the Messiah, tell us outright!"

25 Yeshua answered them, "I told you, but you don't believe! The works I do in My Father's name testify concerning Me.

Yeshua And Hanukkah

John 10

22 Then the Chag (Festival) of Channukah took place in Yerushalayim. It was winter. *Orthodox Jewish Bible*

22 Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. *NKJ*

22 And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter. *KJV*

First Century Hanukkah

- In the first century, small oil lamps were lit in remembrance of the Hasmoneans' military victory over the Seleucids, the cleansing of the Temple from pagan impurity, and the rededication of the altar.
- We know fire was a staple feature of first-century Hanukkah observance from three first-century sources. The author of 2 Maccabees (c. 120 BCE) calls Hanukkah "the festival of fire," commemorating the reinstitution of the altar's fire during Hanukkah (2 Maccabees 1:18).
- Josephus (c. 37–c. 100 CE) calls Hanukkah "the festival of lights" (Antiquities), and an early first-century rabbinic tradition dating to about 115 CE recounts how Jews "lit Hanukkah candles ... in rebellion to Trajan" (Jerusalem Talmud).

Credit to FFOZ

How Was Hanukkah Celebrated

- The celebrations held in the Temple during the festival were modeled after the great water-drawing ceremony at Sukkot. (John 7)
- Enormous torches lit the Temple courtyard during the eight nights of Hanukkah, just as they did during Sukkot.
- Hallel would have been sung in the temple
- Passages from Numbers 7, 8 and 28 would have been read
- How is the mitzvah for the lighting of the Hanukkah lamp fulfilled? With one candle for the entire household; the zealous lit one candle for each member of the household; the most zealous lit eight lights for each household member. (Talmud)

Yeshua at Sukkot

- The celebrations held in the Temple during the festival were modeled after the great water-drawing ceremony at Sukkot.

John 7

37 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Yeshua stood up and cried out loudly, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.

38 Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture says, ‘out of his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’”

39 Now He said this about the Ruach, whom those who trusted in Him were going to receive; for the Ruach was not yet given, since Yeshua was not yet glorified.

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Why Hanukkah?

- In the year 168 B.C.E., the Syrian king Antiochus Epiphanes sent his soldiers to Jerusalem.
- The Syrians desecrated the Temple, the holiest place for Jews at that time.
- Antiochus also abolished Judaism, outlawing the observance of Shabbat and the festivals, as well as circumcision.
- Altars and idols were set up for the worship of Greek gods, and he offered Jews two options: conversion or death.
- On the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev in 168 B.C.E., the Temple was renamed for the Greek god Zeus.

The Maccabees

- A Jewish resistance movement – led by a priestly family known as the Hasmoneans, or Maccabees – developed, resisting the cruelty of Antiochus.
- The head of the family was Mattathias, an elderly man. His son, Judah, became the chief strategist and military leader of the resistance.
- Though outnumbered, Judah Maccabee and his fighters miraculously won two major battles, routing the Syrians decisively.

Desecration

1 Maccabees 1

29 Two years later, the king sent the Mysian commander* to the cities of Judah, and he came to Jerusalem with a strong force.

34 There they installed a sinful race, transgressors of the law, who fortified themselves inside it.

35 They stored up weapons and provisions, depositing there the plunder they had collected from Jerusalem, and they became a great snare.

36 The citadel became an ambush against the sanctuary, and a wicked adversary to Israel at all times.

37 They shed innocent blood around the sanctuary; they defiled the sanctuary.

38 Because of them the inhabitants of Jerusalem fled away, she became the abode of strangers. She became a stranger to her own offspring, and her children forsook her.

39 Her sanctuary became desolate as a wilderness; her feasts were turned into mourning, Her sabbaths to shame, her honor to contempt.

40 As her glory had been, so great was her dishonor: her exaltation was turned into mourning.

Mattathias Maccabee

1 Maccabees 2

1 In those days Mattathias, son of John, son of Simeon, a priest of the family of Joarib, a left Jerusalem and settled in Modein.*

2 He had five sons: John, who was called Gaddi;

3 Simon, who was called Thassi;

4 Judas, who was called Maccabeus;

5 Eleazar, who was called Avaran; and Jonathan, who was called Apphus.

Mattathias Mourns The Temple

1 Maccabees 2

6 When he saw the sacrileges that were being committed in Judah and in Jerusalem,

7 he said: “Woe is me! Why was I born to see the ruin of my people, the ruin of the holy city— To dwell thereas it was given into the hands of enemies, the sanctuary into the hands of strangers?

8 Her temple has become like a man disgraced,

9 her glorious vessels carried off as spoils, Her infants murdered in her streets,

her youths by the sword of the enemy.

10 What nation has not taken its share of her realm, and laid its hand on her spoils?

Mattathias Mourns The Temple

1 Maccabees 2

11 All her adornment has been taken away. Once free, she has become a slave.

12 We see our sanctuary laid waste, our beauty, our glory. The Gentiles have defiled them!

13 Why are we still alive?"

14 Then Mattathias and his sons tore their garments, put on sackcloth, and mourned bitterly.

Mattathias Tempted With Notoriety

1 Maccabees 2

17 Then the officers of the king addressed Mattathias: “You are a leader, an honorable and great man in this city, supported by sons and kindred.

18 Come now, be the first to obey the king’s command, as all the Gentiles and Judeans and those who are left in Jerusalem have done. Then you and your sons shall be numbered among the King’s Friends,* and you and your sons shall be honored with silver and gold and many gifts.”

19 But Mattathias answered in a loud voice: “Although all the Gentiles in the king’s realm obey him, so that they forsake the religion of their ancestors and consent to the king’s orders,

20 yet I and my sons and my kindred will keep to the covenant of our ancestors.

21 Heaven forbid that we should forsake the law and the commandments.

22 We will not obey the words of the king by departing from our religion in the slightest degree.”

Mattathias Righteous Reaction

1 Maccabees 2

23 As he finished saying these words, a certain Jew came forward in the sight of all to offer sacrifice on the altar in Modein according to the king's order.

24 When Mattathias saw him, he was filled with zeal; his heart was moved and his just fury was aroused; he sprang forward and killed him upon the altar.

25 At the same time, he also killed the messenger of the king who was forcing them to sacrifice, and he tore down the altar.

26 Thus he showed his zeal for the law, just as Phinehas did with Zimri, son of Salu.

27 Then Mattathias cried out in the city, "Let everyone who is zealous for the law and who stands by the covenant follow me!"

Moving Out Into The Wilderness

1 Maccabees 2

28 Then he and his sons fled to the mountains, leaving behind in the city all their possessions.

29 At that time many who sought righteousness and justice went out into the wilderness* to settle there,

30 they and their children, their wives and their animals, because misfortunes pressed so hard on them.

31 It was reported to the officers and soldiers of the king who were in the City of David, in Jerusalem, that those who had flouted the king's order had gone out to secret refuges in the wilderness.

32 Many hurried out after them, and having caught up with them, camped opposite and prepared to attack them on the sabbath.

A Grim Decision

1 Maccabees 2

38 So the officers and soldiers attacked them on the sabbath, and they died with their wives, their children and their animals, to the number of a thousand persons.

39 When Mattathias and his friends heard of it, they mourned deeply for them.

40 They said to one another, "If we all do as our kindred have done, and do not fight against the Gentiles for our lives and our laws, they will soon destroy us from the earth."

41 So on that day they came to this decision: "Let us fight against anyone who attacks us on the sabbath, so that we may not all die as our kindred died in their secret refuges."

42 Then they were joined by a group of Hasideans,* mighty warriors of Israel, all of them devoted to the law.

43 And all those who were fleeing from the persecutions joined them and supported them

A Call To Action

1 Maccabees 2

44 They gathered an army and struck down sinners in their wrath and the lawless in their anger, and the survivors fled to the Gentiles for safety.

45 Mattathias and his friends went about and tore down the pagan altars;

46 they also forcibly circumcised any uncircumcised boys whom they found in the territory of Israel.

47 They put to flight the arrogant, and the work prospered in their hands.

48 They saved the law from the hands of the Gentiles and of the kings and did not let the sinner triumph.

Crying Out For A Decisive Victory

1 Maccabees 4

10 So now let us cry to Heaven in the hope that he will favor us, remember the covenant with our ancestors, and destroy this army before us today.

11 All the Gentiles shall know that there is One who redeems and delivers Israel.”

12 When the foreigners looked up and saw them marching toward them,

13 they came out of their camp for battle. The men with Judas blew the trumpet, and

14 joined the battle. They crushed the Gentiles, who fled toward the plain.

Time To Purify and Rededicate The Temple

1 Maccabees 4

36 Then Judas and his brothers said, "Now that our enemies have been crushed, let us go up to purify the sanctuary* and rededicate it."

37 So the whole army assembled, and went up to Mount Zion.

38 They found the sanctuary desolate, the altar desecrated, the gates burnt, weeds growing in the courts as in a thicket or on some mountain, and the priests' chambers demolished.

39 Then they tore their garments and made great lamentation; they sprinkled their heads with ashes

40 and prostrated themselves. And when the signal was given with trumpets, they cried out to Heaven.

41 Judas appointed men to attack those in the citadel, while he purified the sanctuary.

A Decisive Victory

1 Maccabees 4

42 He chose blameless priests, devoted to the law;

43 these purified the sanctuary and carried away the stones of the defilement to an unclean place.

44 They deliberated what ought to be done with the altar for burnt offerings that had been desecrated.i

45 They decided it best to tear it down, lest it be a lasting shame to them that the Gentiles had defiled it; so they tore down the altar.

46 They stored the stones in a suitable place on the temple mount, until the coming of a prophet who could determine what to do with them.j

47 Then they took uncut stones, according to the law, and built a new altar like the former one.

A Decisive Victory

1 Maccabees 4

48 They also repaired the sanctuary and the interior of the temple and consecrated the courts.

49 They made new sacred vessels and brought the lampstand, the altar of incense, and the table into the temple.

50 Then they burned incense on the altar and lighted the lamps on the lampstand, and these illuminated the temple.

51 They also put loaves on the table and hung up the curtains. Thus they finished all the work they had undertaken.

52 They rose early on the morning of the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, that is, the month of Kislev, in the year one hundred and forty-eight,*

53 and offered sacrifice according to the law on the new altar for burnt offerings that they had made.

A Decisive Victory

1 Maccabees 4

54 On the anniversary of the day on which the Gentiles had desecrated it, on that very day it was rededicated with songs, harps, lyres, and cymbals.

55 All the people prostrated themselves and adored and praised Heaven, who had given them success.

56 For eight days they celebrated the dedication of the altar and joyfully offered burnt offerings and sacrifices of deliverance and praise.

57 They ornamented the facade of the temple with gold crowns and shields; they repaired the gates and the priests' chambers and furnished them with doors.

58 There was great joy among the people now that the disgrace brought by the Gentiles was removed.

A Decisive Victory

1 Maccabees 4

56 For eight days they celebrated the dedication of the altar and joyfully offered burnt offerings and sacrifices of deliverance and praise.

59 Then Judas and his brothers and the entire assembly of Israel decreed that every year for eight days, from the twenty-fifth day of the month Kislev, the days of the dedication* of the altar should be observed with joy and gladness on the anniversary.

Purification Of The Temple In Kislev

2 Maccabees 1

18 * On the pretext of marrying the goddess, Antiochus with his Friends had come to the place to get its great treasures as a dowry.

15 When the priests of Nanea's temple had displayed the treasures and Antiochus with a few attendants had come inside the wall of the temple precincts, the priests locked the temple as soon as he entered.

16 Then they opened a hidden trapdoor in the ceiling, and hurling stones at the leader and his companions, struck them down. They dismembered the bodies, cut off their heads and tossed them to the people outside.

17 Forever blessed be our God, who has thus punished the impious!

18 * Since we shall be celebrating the purification of the temple on the twenty-fifth day of the month Kislev (Dec 2 – Dec 31), we thought it right to inform you, that you too may celebrate the feast of Booths and of the fire that appeared when Nehemiah, the rebuilder of the temple* and the altar, offered sacrifices.

Solomon and The Temple

2 Chronicles 7 Sukkot and Shemini Atzaret

1 Now when Solomon finished praying the fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of YHWH filled the House.

2 The kohanim could not even enter into the House of YHWH because the glory of YHWH filled the House of YHWH.

3 When all Bnei-Yisrael saw the fire come down and the glory of YHWH above the House, they bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, prostrating themselves and praising YHWH,

“For He is good and His mercy endures forever.”

Solomon and The Temple

2 Chronicles 7

4 Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before YHWH.

5 King Solomon offered a sacrifice of 22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the House of YHWH.

6 The kohanim stood at their posts, as did the Levites with the musical instruments of YHWH that King David had made for praising YHWH—“for His mercy endures forever”—whenever David offered praise by their hand. Opposite them were the kohanim who sounded trumpets while all Israel was standing.

Solomon and The Temple

2 Chronicles 7

7 Moreover, Solomon consecrated the middle of the courtyard that was before the House of YHWH, because there he offered the burnt offerings and the fat of the peace offerings, since the bronze altar which Solomon had made was not able to contain the burnt offering, the grain offering and the fat.

8 At that time, Solomon observed the feast for seven days and all Israel with him—a very great assembly from Lebohamath to the Brook of Egypt.

Solomon and The Temple

2 Chronicles 7

9 On the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, for they had celebrated the dedication of the altar for seven days and the feast for seven days.

10 On the 23rd day of the seventh month he sent the people away to their tents, joyful and glad of heart for the goodness that Adonai had done for David, Solomon and Israel His people.

Hanukkah — Feast Of Dedication Or 8 Days Of Miraculous Oil

- No account of one days provision of oil burning for 8 days
- Could it have happened?
- What was the reason for the celebration lasting for 8 days?
- From Solomon to Judas, The Dedication and Rededication of the Temple was the focus of the 8 day celebration.

Hanukkah – Feast Of Dedication Or 8 Days Of Miraculous Oil

Menorah



Hanukkiah



Parashah Vayigash Aliyah or Reading

וַיָּגֵשׁ – And he came near

Genesis 44:18 – 47:27

- 1st Day Genesis 44:18 – 30 Haftarah
- 2nd Day Genesis 44:31 – 45:7 Ezekiel 37:15 – 28
- 3rd Day Genesis 45:8 – 18
- 4th Day Genesis 45:19 – 27
- 5th Day Genesis 45:28 – 46:27 Gospels
- 6th Day Genesis 46:28 – 47:10 Luke 24:30 – 48
- 7th Day Genesis 47:11 – 27



First Century Ministries

Blessings and Shalom