

## Chanuka - The War on Two Fronts:

1. **Siddur:** For the miracles, and for the salvation, and for the mighty deeds, and for the victories, *and for the battles* which You performed for our forefathers in those days at this time. In the days of Matisyahu the son of Yochanan Kohen Gadol, the Chashmonaim and his sons – when the wicked Greek kingdom rose up against Your people Israel to make them forget *Your Torah* and compel them to stray from the *statutes* of Your will - ...You delivered the strong into the hands of the weak, the many into the hands of the few, *the impure into the hands of the pure, the wicked into the hands of the righteous*, and the wanton into the hands of the diligent students of your Torah. For Yourself You made a great and holy Name in Your world.....and they established these eight days of Chanuka to express thanks and praise to Your great Name.
2. **Midrash:** The Greeks prohibited the observance of Shabbat, Brit Mila (circumcision), and Kiddush Hachodesh (court sanctification of a new month based on the new moon).
3. **Midrash:** The Greeks forced upon the Jews, Write upon the horn of an ox: "You have no part in the G-d of Israel."
4. **Maoz Tzur:** Greeks gathered against me, then in Hasmonean days. They breached the walls of my towers, and they *defiled* all the oils.
5. **Talmud Shabbos 21b:** "What is Chanukah? The Rabbis have expounded: Beginning with the 25th of Kislev, eight days of Chanukah are observed, during which no eulogies are delivered, nor is fasting permitted. For when the Greeks entered the Sanctuary, they *defiled* all the holy oils used for the Menorah in the temple, and when the Hasmonean house prevailed and vanquished them, they searched and found only one remaining jar of oil with the Kohen Gadol's seal.
6. **Jerusalem Talmud Sanhedrin 10,2:** Why is he called Achaz? Because he *seized* ('achaz') the shuls and batei midrash. He said, 'If there are no kids, there will be no goats; if there are no goats, there is no flocks and no shepherd.'
7. **Talmud Sanhedrin 94b:** Chizkiyahu's oil burned in the synagogues and houses of study. He stuck a sword at the entrance to the house of study and proclaimed, "Whoever does not engage in Torah study will be pierced by this sword!" They checked from Dan to Beer-sheba and did not find a boy or girl, man or woman, who was not fluent in the laws of ritual purity and impurity.
8. **Talmud Nedarim 81b:** "Who is the Chacham who knows this (why Yisrael were exiled)?" Chachamim and Nevi'im (Bach - and angels) could not explain it, until Hash-m explained it - "Because they abandoned My Torah." "They did not listen to My voice" is the same as "they did not go in My way"! "They did not go in My way" means that they did not (appreciate Torah enough to) bless before learning.
9. **Psalms 73,17:** Until I entered into the sanctuaries of God; then I understood their end.
10. **Bereishis 7,12:** And the *flood* was on the earth forty days.
11. **Rashi:** In another verse, it says, 'And the *rain* was upon the earth forty days.' When He brought the rains down, He brought them down with mercy, so that if the people would repent, the rains would be rains of blessing. And when they did not repent, they returned to being a flood.
12. **Talmud Pesachim 87a:** 'I am a wall, and my breasts are like towers.' [Song of Songs 8:10]. Rebbe Yochanan said, 'I am a wall,' refers to Torah. 'My breasts are like towers,' refers to the sages.