HANUKKA: The blessings and prayers when lighting the candles

This year, Sunday night, December 14, 2025, corresponding to the 25th of Kislev, 5786, we will light the first candle of Hanukka.

The celebration of Hanukka lasts for eight consecutive days.

BLESSINGS

The father or head of the household recites the following three blessings before lighting the first candle. On the following nights, only the first and second blessings are recited.

First Blessing

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“Blessed are You, HaShem, our God, Sovereign of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to light the Hanukka candle.”

Second Blessing

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“Blessed are You, HaShem, our God, Sovereign of the universe, who performed miracles for our fathers in those days, at this time.”

Third Blessing (Recited on the First Night Only)

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“Blessed are You, HaShem, our God, Sovereign of the universe,

who has allowed us to be alive and present at this moment.”

After lighting the candles, we recite *Hanerot Halalu*.

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Here is the translation:

“We light these candles to commemorate the miracles, deliverance, mighty deeds, salvation, and wonders that You performed for our fathers in those days at this time of year, through Your holy priests. During all eight days of Hanukka, these lights are sacred, and we are not permitted to derive benefit from them. We may only look at them to express gratitude and praise to Your great Name for Your miracles, wonders, and acts of salvation.”

At the end, we recite: *Mizmor Shir Hanukkat haBayit leDavid…* (Psalm 30).