

*The celebration of **Hanukkah** focuses on the lighting of the menorah. It is a special time for families and friends to spend together singing, playing, giving gifts, telling stories, and **meditating on the meaning of Hanukkah.***

Eight Days of Hanukkah (day 7 of 8)

The Feast of Dedication and The Feast of Light

by Michael Gibson, Key2Changes.com

The True Meaning of Hanukkah The “Conception” of the Light of the World

*“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name
Jesus (Yashua – I am Salvation, I am the Light of the World).” Luke 1:31*

On the seventh night:

For the path of the righteous is as the light of dawn, that shines brighter and brighter until full day.

Light is sown for the righteous, radiance for the upright.

O you righteous, rejoice in the Lord and acclaim His holy name.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a brilliant light; on those who dwelt in a land of gloom light has dawned.

For all the Israelites enjoyed light in their dwellings.

Arise, shine, for your light has dawned; the Presence of the Lord has shone upon you!

*O House of Jacob! Come, let us walk by the light of the Lord. **Proverbs 4:18; Psalm 97:11-12; Isaiah 9:1; Exodus 10:23; Isaiah 60:1; 2:4***

Prayer on the seventh night:

Daily Exercise - Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina is a Latin term that means “divine reading.” It is a way or method of reading the Scriptures in such a manner that facilitates the reader in receiving a “specific word” from God. The practice was developed early in the church’s history with Origen first expressing its principles around 220 AD. The system consists of four parts: reading, meditation, prayer and contemplation. It may be practiced privately or in a small group setting. There are four elements to be considered in preparing for this exercise:

1. Set aside enough time to complete the exercise so that you don’t have to rush through it. Usually thirty minutes is adequate.
2. Find a quiet place free of distractions.
3. Read the Selected Passage Above of Scripture.
4. Transition from what you have been doing by calming you mind and body. This can be done by taking a few slow, deep breaths and inviting the Lord to speak to you through His word.

Reading

1. Read the passage aloud slowly a couple of times.
2. Be silent for one-to-two minutes.
3. Is there a word or phrase that is meaningful to you?
4. Repeat the word or phrase several times silently as if to memorize it.

* If in a group share it in turn. Do not elaborate simply state what it is.

Meditation

1. Read the passage again.
2. Be silent for two to three minutes.

3. Think about how the reading applies or touches your life today.

* If in a group share it in turn. Briefly state "I hear, I see, I feel ..."

Prayer

1. Talk with God about what he is showing you.

* If in a group pray quietly.

Contemplation

1. Read the passage again.

2. Be silent for two to three minutes.

3. Reflect on "I believe God wants me to _____ today/this week/etc."

* If in a group share in turn. At this point you can elaborate somewhat on what you believe God is telling you to do.

Study on the seventh night:

The Rainbow:

When you look at the shape of the seven-branched golden lampstand it should remind you of something else. If you continue the pattern of the lampstand with its light in an upward arc it produces a **rainbow**. Light itself contains the whole spectrum of color and when you view light through water it forms a rainbow. The six spaces between the branches represent the colors of the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. These colors are the three primary and three secondary colors from which all other colors are made.

When viewed from earth a rainbow is a semi-circle but when viewed from the air it forms a complete circle. Often people who fly observe this phenomenon. This gives us cause to think about what happens if we turn the lampstand upside down. Another truth is revealed! Even though the lampstand is on earth with its branches pointing upwards, the truth is that it is a representation of what is in heaven.

God told Moses to make it according to the pattern in heaven. Therefore, the lampstand's base is in heaven and the true light comes down from heaven to earth. The oil from the olive trees, which are the Law and the Prophets flow through the branch (staff), which is Jesus Christ, the Word of God. In turn it is displayed as light to the world through the branches, which are the churches. And since the base of the lampstand of which we are a part is in heaven then we should always remember that heaven is our true home and that we are just passing through giving our light to a dark world.

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"The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world." John 1:9