

*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 5 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 fifth night:**

*Look at me, answer me, O Lord, my God!*

*Give light to my eyes lest I sleep the sleep of death.*

*Darkness is not dark for You; night is as light as day; darkness and light are the same.*

*Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of Your servant, and to his supplications, and cause Your face to shine upon Your sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord’s sake.*

*Send forth Your light and Your truth; they will lead me; they will bring me to your holy mountain, to Your dwelling-place.*

*With You is the fountain of life; by Your light do we see light.*

*It is You who light my lamp; the Lord, my God, light up my darkness.*

*The soul of a human is the lamp of the Lord, searching all the innermost parts.*

*For You have saved me from death, my foot from stumbling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.*

*Truly, God does all these things, two, three times to a person, to bring him back from the Pit, that he may bask in the light of life. Psalm 13:4; 139:12; Daniel 9:17; Psalm 43:3; 36:10; 18:20; Proverbs 20:27; Psalm 56:14; Job 33:29-30*

#### **Prayer on the fifth 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 fifth night:

### More Than A Burning Bush:

Jesus Christ and the Church, as the seven-branched golden lampstand, which has the characteristics of an almond tree also carries with it a very special designation . . . **The Tree of Life**. This revelation comes from the confirmation process God used in His selection of Aaron as High Priest and his family, the Levites as priests (Numbers 17).

The story began when the Israelites complained against the leadership of Moses and Aaron. God had Moses take the staffs (A staff might be thought of as a walking stick.) of the leaders of each of the twelve tribes of Israel, wrote their names on the staffs and put them all in the Tabernacle in the presence of God. And this is what happened! "*Now on the next day Moses went into the tent of the testimony; and behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi had **sprouted** (calyx) and put forth **buds** (bud) and produced **blossoms** (flowers), and it bore ripe **almonds** (fruit).*" (Numbers 17:8) To all the Israelites amazement a dead branch had become a living tree.

In like manner, God repeats this sign in the choosing of Jesus, the dead branch come to life. "*In Him was life, and the **life was the light of men.***" (John 1:4) Jesus is the High Priest of the order of Melchizedek and we His family are members of that priesthood. As it is written: "*But you are a chosen race, **a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.***" (1 Peter 2:9)

The book of Hebrews goes into great depth concerning these truths but for now let it suffice that you remember that Melchizedek (Genesis 14:17-20) was the King of Salem. His name means "King of Righteousness" and his title means "King of Peace". Therefore, as members of this priesthood, Christians are to be ministering to others in regards to the areas of righteousness and peace.

The seven-branched golden lampstand also serves as a reminder and to shed light on all things pertaining to God. For example:

1. His **creation** in seven days: On the **first** day ... **light**. The sun, moon, and stars were not created until the fourth day. And on the last day ... rest.
2. His **light** the Church: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.
3. His **oneness**: One body, One Spirit, One hope, One Lord, One faith, One baptism, One God and Father of us all. (Ephesians 4:4-6)
4. His **appointed times** which are the Seven Feasts of the Lord: Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, Weeks, Trumpets, Day of Atonement and Tabernacles.

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