

A Chanukah Nightly Check List

John 8:12 –

“I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light which gives life.”

Ego eimi phos kosmos akoloutheo ego peripateo ouk un peripateo en skotia alla echo phos zoe.
ἐγώ εἰμί φῶς κόσμος ἀκολουθέω ἐγὼ περιπατέω οὐκ μὴ περιπατέω ἐν σκοτία ἀλλὰ ἔχω φῶς ζωῆ

Psalm 27:1 –

“Yahweh is my light and salvation; who do I need to fear? Yahweh is the stronghold of my life; of whom should I be afraid?”

miy pachad chay ma'owz Yahweh yare miy ve'yesha ovr Yahweh
מִי פַחַד חַי מְאוֹז יְהוָה יָרֵא מִי וְעֵשָׂה אוֹר יְהוָה

Chanukah Blessings

The First Blessing:

Barukh atah Yahweh Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam, asher kideshanu be'mitzvotav ve'tzivanu lehadik ner shel Chanukah. Blessed are You, Yahweh our God, King of the Universe, Who has sanctified us with his commandments, and inspired us to kindle the Chanukkah light. Amen

The Second Blessing:

Barukh atah Yahweh Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam, she'asah nissim la'avoteinu bayamim he'hem bazman hazeh. Blessed are You, Yahweh our God, King of the Universe, who performed miracles for our forefathers in those days, at this time. Amen

The Third Blessing:

Recited only on the first night (or the first time lighting the Hanukkiah)

Barukh atah Yahweh Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam, shehechyanu ve'kiyemanu ve'higi'anu lazman hazeh. Blessed are You, Yahweh our God, King of the Universe, who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this occasion. Amen

First night:

Read: Isaiah 51:1-4; Proverbs 6:23; Matthew 25:1-4; Proverbs 13:9; Lamentations 2:9; Proverbs 29:18.

Discuss: The importance of a new understanding of what Torah really means.

Question: What was the light Messiah brought to the nations?

Prayer: That Yahweh would bring His light into any darkness in our own lives.

Isaiah 51:1-4 – “Listen to me, you pursuers of justice, you who seek Yahweh; consider the rock from which you were cut, the quarry from which you were dug – consider Abraham your father and Sarah, who gave birth to you; in that I called him when he was only one person, then blessed him and made him many. For Yahweh will comfort Tziyon, will comfort all her ruined places, will make her desert like ‘Eden, her desert like the garden of Yahweh. Joy and gladness will be there, thanksgiving and the sound of music. Pay attention to me, my people! My nation, listen to me! For Torah will go out from me; I will calm them with my justice as a light for the peoples.”

Proverbs 6:23 – “For the mitzvah is a lamp, Torah is light, and reproofs that discipline are the way to life.”

Matthew 25:1-4 – “The Kingdom of Heaven at that time will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible. The foolish ones took lamps with them but no oil, whereas the others took flasks of oil with their lamps.”

Proverbs 13:9 – “The light of the righteous [shines] joyfully, but the lamp of the wicked will be extinguished.”

Lamentations 2:9 – “Her gates have sunk into the ground; he destroyed and broke their bars. Her king and rulers are among the Goyim, there is no more Torah, and her prophets do not receive visions from Yahweh.”

Proverbs 29:18 – “Without a prophetic vision, the people throw off all restraint; but he who keeps Torah is happy.”

Second night:

Read: Psalm 119:1-24.

Discuss: How living out the Torah is what makes us light in this dark world.

Question: What does Psalm 119:18 mean to you?

Prayer: That Yahweh would open our eyes to see wonderful things in His Torah.

Psalm 119:1-8 א (Alef) “How blessed are those whose actions are blameless, who obey the law of Yahweh. How blessed are those who observe his rules, and seek him with all their heart, who, moreover, do no wrong, but follow in his footsteps. You demand that your precepts be carefully kept. If only I were predisposed to keep your statutes! Then I would not be ashamed, if I were focused on all your commands. I will give you sincere thanks, when I learn your just regulations. I will keep your statutes. Do not completely abandon me!”

Psalm 119:9-17 ב (Bet) “How can a young person maintain a pure life? By guarding it according to your instructions! With all my heart I seek you. Do not allow me to stray from your commands! In my heart I store up your words, so I might not sin against you. You deserve praise, O Yahweh! Teach me your statutes! With my lips I proclaim all the regulations you have revealed. I rejoice in the lifestyle prescribed by your rules as if they were riches of all kinds. I will meditate on your precepts and focus on your behavior. I find delight in your statutes; I do not forget your instructions.”

Psalm 119:17-24 ג (Gimel) “Be kind to your servant! Then I will live and keep your instructions. Open my eyes so I can truly see the marvelous things in your law! am like a foreigner in this land. Do not hide your commands from me! I desperately long to know your regulations at all times. You reprimand arrogant people. Those who stray from your commands are doomed. Spare me shame and humiliation, for I observe your rules. Though rulers plot and slander me, your servant meditates on your statutes. Yes, I find delight in your rules; they give me guidance.”

Third night:

Read: Psalm 119:25-48.

Discuss: Having borders or fences to protect us is good, not bad.

Question: What is the significance of Psalm 119:44-45?

Prayer: That we may see Torah as what Yahweh has given us to protect us.

Psalm 119:25-32 ד (Dalet) “I lie prostrate in the dust; revive me, in keeping with your word. I told you of my ways, and you answered me; teach me your laws. Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wonders. I am melting away from anxiety and grief; renew my strength, in keeping with your word. Keep deceitful ways far from me, and favor me with your Torah. I choose the way of trust; I set your rulings [before me]. I cling to your instruction; Yahweh, don’t let me be put to shame! I will run the way of your mitzvot, for you have broadened my understanding.”

Psalm 119:33-40 ה (Heh) “Teach me, Yahweh, the way of your laws; keeping them will be its own reward for me. Give me understanding; then I will keep your Torah; I will observe it with all my heart. Guide me on the path of your mitzvot, for I take pleasure in it. Bend my heart toward your instructions and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; with your ways, give me life. Fulfill your promise, which you made to your servant, which you made to those who fear you. Avert the disgrace which I dread, for your rulings are good. See how I long for your precepts; in your righteousness, give me life!”

Psalm 119:41-48 ו (Vav) “May your grace come to me, Yahweh, your salvation, as you promised; then I will have an answer for those who taunt me; for I trust in your word. Don’t take away completely my power to speak the truth; for I put my hope in your rulings; and I will keep your Torah always, forever and ever. I will go wherever I like, for I have sought your precepts. I will speak of your instructions even to kings without being ashamed. I will delight myself in your mitzvot, which I have loved. I will lift my hands to your mitzvot, which I love; and I will meditate on your laws.”

Fourth night:

Read: Psalm 119:49-72.

Discuss: What do we value more: riches or Torah?

Question: What does Psalm 119:53 mean to you?

Prayer: That we may learn to put a higher value on what Yahweh says, than on what man says.

Psalm 119:49-56 ז (Zayin) “Remember your promise to your servant, through which you have given me hope. In my distress my comfort is this: that your promise gives me life. Though the arrogant scorn me completely, I have not turned away from your Torah. Yahweh, I keep in mind your age-old rulings; in them I take comfort. Fury seizes me when I think of the wicked, because they abandon your Torah. Your laws have become my songs wherever I make my home. I remember your name, Yahweh, at night; and I observe your Torah. This [comfort] has come to me, because I observe your precepts.”

Psalm 119:57-64 ה (Het) “Yahweh, I say that my task is to observe your words. I beg your favor with my whole heart; show pity to me, in keeping with your promise. I thought about my ways and turned my feet toward your instruction. I hurry, I don’t delay, to observe your mitzvot. Even when the cords of the wicked close around me, I don’t forget your Torah. At midnight I rise to give you thanks because of your righteous rulings I am a friend of all who fear you, of those who observe your precepts. The earth, Yahweh, is full of your grace; teach me your laws.”

Psalm 119:65-72 ט (Tet) “You have treated your servant well, Yahweh, in keeping with your word. Teach me good judgment and knowledge, because I trust in your mitzvot. Before I was humbled, I used to go astray; but now I observe your word. You are good, and you do good; teach me your laws. The arrogant are slandering me, but I will wholeheartedly keep your precepts. Their hearts are as thick as fat, but I take delight in your Torah. It is for my good that I have been humbled; it was so that I would learn your laws. The Torah you have spoken means more to me than a fortune in gold and silver.”

Fifth night:

Read: Psalm 119:73-96.

Discuss: The faithfulness and longevity of Yahweh’s Word.

Question: What does Psalm 119:89-91 mean to you?

Prayer: That Yahweh would settle His Word in each of our lives.

Psalm 119:73-80 י (Yud) “Your hands made and formed me; give me understanding, so I can learn your mitzvot. Those who fear you rejoice at the sight of me, because I put my hope in your word. I know, Yahweh, that your rulings are righteous, that even when you humble me you are faithful. Let your grace comfort me, in keeping with your promise to your servant. Show me pity, and I will live, for your Torah is my delight. Let the proud be ashamed, because they wrong me with lies; as for me, I will meditate on your precepts. Let those who fear you turn to me, along with those who know your instruction. Let my heart be pure in your laws, so that I won’t be put to shame.”

Psalm 119:81-88 כ (Kaf) “I am dying to know your salvation; my hope is in your word. My eyes fail from watching for your promise; I ask, “When will you comfort me?” For I have shriveled like a wineskin in a smoky room; still, I don’t forget your laws. How long can your servant stay alive? When will you bring judgment on my persecutors? The arrogant have dug pits for me to fall in; this is not in keeping with your Torah! All your mitzvot [show your] faithfulness; they are hounding me with lies; help me! They have nearly ended my life on earth, but I have not abandoned your precepts. In keeping with your grace, revive me; and I will observe your spoken instructions.”

Psalm 119:89-96 ל (Lamed) “Your word continues forever, Yahweh, firmly fixed in heaven; your faithfulness through all generations; you established the earth, and it stands. Yes, it stands today, in keeping with your rulings; for all things are your servants. If your Torah had not been my delight, I would have perished in my distress. I will never forget your precepts, for with them you have made me alive. I am yours; save me because I seek your precepts. The wicked hope to destroy me, but I focus on your instruction. I see the limits of all perfection, but your mitzvah has no bounds.”

Sixth night:

Read: Psalm 119:97-120.

Discuss: How Yahweh's Word is what lights our path, so we won't fall.

Question: What does Psalm 119:103-105 mean to you?

Prayer: That the anointing of the Messiah would fuel the flames of our faith, illuminating the Kingdom of God to those around us so they won't fall.

Psalm 119:97-104 מ (Mem) "How I love your Torah! I meditate on it all day. I am wiser than my foes, because your mitzvot are mine forever. I have more understanding than all my teachers, because I meditate on your instruction. I understand more than my elders, because I keep your precepts. I keep my feet from every evil way, in order to observe your word. I don't turn away from your rulings, because you have instructed me. How sweet to my tongue is your promise, truly sweeter than honey in my mouth! From your precepts I gain understanding; this is why I hate every false way."

Psalm 119:105-112 נ (Nun) "Your word is a lamp for my foot and light on my path. I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, that I will observe your righteous rulings. I am very much distressed; Yahweh, give me life, in keeping with your word. Please accept my mouth's voluntary offerings, Yahweh; and teach me your rulings. I am continually taking my life in my hands, yet I haven't forgotten your Torah. The wicked have set a trap for me, yet I haven't strayed from your precepts. I take your instruction as a permanent heritage, because it is the joy of my heart. I have resolved to obey your laws forever, at every step."

Psalm 119:113-120 ו (Samekh) "I hate doubleminded people, but I love your Torah. You are my hiding-place and shield; I put my hope in your word. Leave me alone, you evildoers, so that I can keep my God's mitzvot. Uphold me, as you promised; and I will live; don't disappoint me in my hope. Support me; and I will be saved, always putting my attention on your laws. You reject all who stray from your laws, for what they deceive themselves with is false. You discard the wicked of the earth like slag; this is why I love your instruction. My body trembles for fear of you; your rulings make me afraid."

Seventh night:

Read: Psalm 119:121-141.

Discuss: Why does Yahweh's servant want Yahweh to go to work?

Question: What do Psalm 119:125-126 and Psalm 119:135-136 mean to you?

Prayer: That we can comprehend our new identity, respond to the call to be lights, and recognize our servanthood to the King.

Psalm 119:121-128 ז (Ayin) "I have done what is just and right; don't abandon me to my oppressors. Guarantee your servant's well-being; don't let the arrogant oppress me. My eyes fail from watching for your salvation and for [the fulfillment of] your righteous promise. Deal with your servant in accordance with your grace, and teach me your laws. I am your servant; give me understanding, so that I can know your instruction. The time has come for Yahweh to act, because they are breaking your Torah. Therefore I love your mitzvot more than gold, more than fine gold. Thus I direct my steps by [your] precepts; every false way I hate."

Psalm 119:129-136 ח (Peh) "Your instruction is a wonder; this is why I follow it. Your words are a doorway that lets in light, giving understanding to the thoughtless. My mouth is wide open, as I pant with longing for your mitzvot. Turn to me, and show me your favor; in keeping with [your] judgment for those who love your name. Guide my footsteps by your word; don't let any kind of sin rule me. Redeem me from human oppression, and I will observe your precepts. Make your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws. Rivers of tears flow down from my eyes, because they don't observe your Torah."

Psalm 119:137-141 ט (Tzadeh) "You are righteous, Yahweh; and your rulings are upright. You have commanded your instructions in righteousness and great faithfulness. My zeal is destroying me, because my foes have forgotten your words. Your word is refined to complete purity, and your servant loves it. I may be small and despised, but I do not forget your precepts."

Eighth night:

Read: Psalm 119:145-176.

Discuss: Peace comes from Torah.

Question: What does Psalm 119:165-167 mean to you?

Prayer: That Yahweh will help you to be a shining light in Yeshua.

Psalm 119:145-152 ק (Kuf) “Wholeheartedly I am calling on you; answer me, Yahweh; I will keep your laws. I am calling on you; save me; and I will observe your instruction. I rise before dawn and cry for help; I put my hope in your word. My eyes are open before the night watches, so that I can meditate on your promise. In your grace, hear my voice; Yahweh, in keeping with your justice, revive me. The pursuers of carnality are getting close; they are distancing themselves from your Torah. You are close by, Yahweh; and all your mitzvot are truth. Long ago I learned from your instruction that you established it forever.”

Psalm 119:153-160 ר (Resh) “Look at my distress, and rescue me, for I do not forget your Torah. Plead my cause, and redeem me; in keeping with your promise, revive me. Salvation is far away from the wicked, because they don’t seek your laws. Great is your compassion, Yahweh; in keeping with your rulings, revive me. Although my persecutors and foes are many, I have not turned away from your instruction. I look at traitors with disgust, because they don’t keep your word. See how I love your precepts, Yahweh; in keeping with your grace, revive me. The main thing about your word is that it’s true; and all your just rulings last forever.”

Psalm 119:161-168 ש (Shin) “Princes persecute me for no reason, but my heart stands in awe of your words. I take joy in your promise, like someone who finds much booty. I hate falsehood, I detest it; but I love your Torah. I praise you seven times a day because of your righteous rulings. Those who love your Torah have great peace; nothing makes them stumble. I hope for your deliverance, Yahweh; I obey your mitzvot. My soul observes your instruction, and I love it so much! I observe your precepts and instruction, for all my ways lie open before you.”

Psalm 119:169-176 ת (Tav) “Let my cry come before you, Yahweh; in keeping with your word, give me understanding. Let my prayer come before you; in keeping with your promise, rescue me. Let my lips speak praise, because you teach me your laws. Let my tongue sing of your promise, because all your mitzvot are righteous. Let your hand be ready to help me, because I choose your precepts. I long for your deliverance, Yahweh; and your Torah is my delight. Let me live, and I will praise you; let your rulings help me. I strayed like a lost sheep; seek out your servant; for I do not forget your mitzvot.”

