

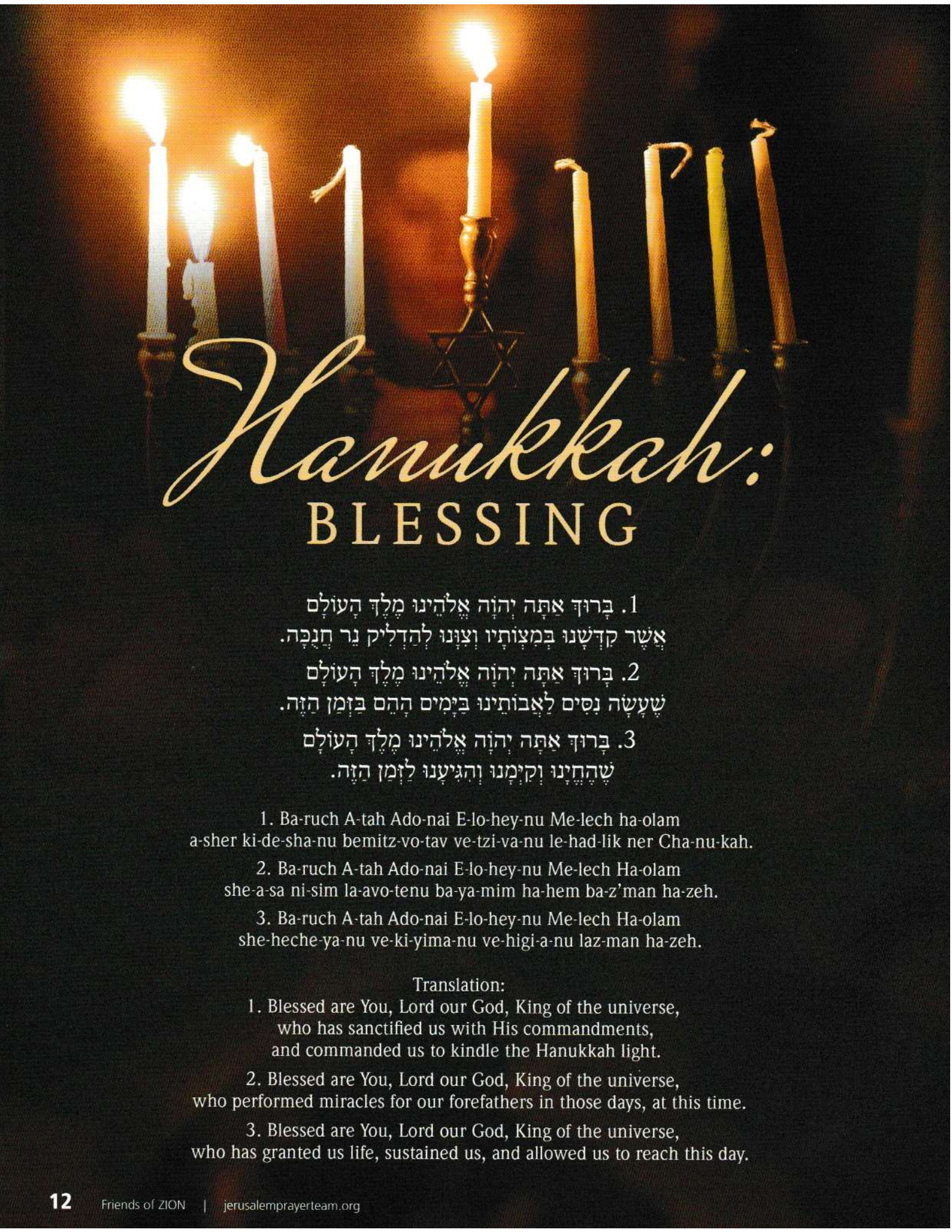
ZION

Friends
OF

Even as Darkness
Descends, the
LIGHT STILL SHINES

*The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not
overcome it. —JOHN 1:5*

AFGHANISTAN



Hanukkah: BLESSING

1. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר חֲנֻכָּה.
2. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמַּן הַזֶּה.
3. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁחַיָּנוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמַּן הַזֶּה.

1. Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-hey-nu Me-lech ha-olam
a-she-er ki-de-sha-nu bemitz-vo-tav ve-tzi-va-nu le-had-lik ner Cha-nu-kah.

2. Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-hey-nu Me-lech Ha-olam
she-a-sa ni-sim la-avo-tenu ba-ya-mim ha-hem ba-z'man ha-zeh.

3. Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-hey-nu Me-lech Ha-olam
she-heche-ya-nu ve-ki-yima-nu ve-higi-a-nu laz-man ha-zeh.

Translation:

1. Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe,
who has sanctified us with His commandments,
and commanded us to kindle the Hanukkah light.
2. Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe,
who performed miracles for our forefathers in those days, at this time.
3. Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe,
who has granted us life, sustained us, and allowed us to reach this day.



The Menorah


When God gave Moses instructions for the Tabernacle, He commanded that only the finest materials be used. Unlike the other implements of worship, even the Ark of the Covenant, the menorah was not covered with gold; it was made completely of gold. *“Make a lampstand of pure gold. Hammer out its base and shaft, and make its flowerlike cups, buds and blossoms of one piece with them”* (Exodus 25:31).

Author and scholar Dr. John Garr wrote, “The menorah has the distinction of being the only emblem in Jewish or Christian worship and tradition that was designed by God Himself. All other emblems represent man’s response to God’s call, symbols that memorialize great events in history or that serve as material objects to fulfill divine imperatives. In Judaism, the mezuzah fulfills in literal terms the commandment to write the law on the doorposts of one’s house and is a daily reminder to the Jewish people of God’s constant protection of their homes. In Christianity, the cross serves as a reminder of the atoning death of Jesus and of the Believer’s dependence upon that one work of redemption as the sole foundation for his faith. The menorah, however, has a heavenly manifestation that long predated its first earthly display.”

We think of menorahs as small, but the ones used for worship in the Tabernacle and later in the Temple were quite large. The final menorah, the one captured by the Romans when they took Jerusalem in 70 AD, is depicted on the arch in Rome dedicated to the military conquests of Titus. It shows the menorah being carried by Roman soldiers. That menorah stood about four and a half feet high and measured some three feet across its branches. Historians estimate that it weighed about 75 pounds.

The Hanukkiah

The traditional menorah, patterned after the lampstand God commanded Moses to have prepared for the Tabernacle, has seven branches—one light for each day of the week. According to rabbinic tradition, it was not permissible to use a menorah like the one from the Temple for any secular purpose. That design was restricted for worship alone.

So a number of different designs, many of which featured five lights, came into use. With Hanukkah coming, one of the most common depictions of the menorah shows a total of nine candles. This version is known as a hanukkiah. The hanukkiah is designed especially for the celebration of the Festival of Lights. It contains nine branches, one for each of the eight days of the observance, and the ninth for the “shamash” or servant candle, which is used to light the others. 



Celebrate the “Light” in Your Home!

See page 21 to request a menorah or hanukkiah of your very own.