

From: The Rabbis at Chicago Torah Network

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To:

Join Rabbi Moshe Katz's popular workshop



CHANUKAH

WHAT IF THE GREEKS WOULD HAVE WON?

Discover how inspiring Chanukah can be and how we can make it meaningful for our children and grandchildren. Teenagers welcome.

OPTION I

OR

OPTION II

Tuesday, November 30 at 7:00 P.M.

At CTN Center, 2832 West Touhy Ave, Chicago

Lunch, Learn & Mitzvah

Wednesday, December 1 at 11:30 A.M.

At Northbrook JCC, 300 Revere Drive



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Home for the Wondering Jew™

Registration: www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm

More information: info@torahnetwork.org or 773 761 0400 x201

THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX[©]

A WEEKLY PRESENTATION OF JEWISH THOUGHT PUBLISHED IN MEMORY OF RAE DANIEL

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 8 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2010 / 19 KISLAIV 5771 CANDLE LIGHTING: 4:03 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 5:12 (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: VAYAISHEV (GENESIS 37:1 - 40:23) - SPECIAL CHANUKAH ISSUE

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is dedicated by Jack Ratz, in loving memory of his mother Tema bas Aaron Dovid; his brothers Menachem Mendel ben Moshe, Rephael Eliezer ben Moshe, Chanan Reuven ben Moshe and Aaron Dovid ben Moshe, who were murdered by the Nazis on 18 Kislev; his father Moshe ben Chaim (22 Kislev) with whom he survived the Holocaust; and his beloved wife Doris, Devorah Masha bas Dov Ber (16 Kislev), who "made my life worth living again after all of my suffering".

1. These Candles we light ... (From the Chanukah Candle Lighting Ceremony)

The *Menorah*.

It goes all the way back to the Temple in Jerusalem.

Where lighting a *Menorah* was part of the service.

It represented the light of Torah. Of spirituality.

In what is sometimes a very dark world.

... The *Menorah* in the Temple was lit every day.

Until the year 70 CE. When the Romans capture Jerusalem.

They burn the Temple to the ground. Sell thousands of Jews as slaves.

And bring the Temple vessels to Rome.

... And this was such an important victory for the Romans, that they built a memorial.

An eternal commemoration to the destruction of the Jewish People.

... *The Arch of Titus.*

You can still see it in Rome.

On it? Roman soldiers carrying the *Menorah*.

As they march victoriously from the destruction of Jerusalem.

... *You can't really blame the Romans for assuming it was 'all over' for the Jews.*

But there was something they didn't realize.

Yes, the Temple in Jerusalem was very important.

But the Jews could – and would – survive without it.

Because we have a different holy place. And a different source of spiritual strength.

... *The Jewish home.*

Because more than anywhere else, Judaism is lived – and Jewish values developed – in the home. Shabbat. The holidays. *Tzedakah*. And so much more.
... And so we have Chanukah.

When we celebrate Jewish survival.

And rekindle the Menorah. In our Jewish homes.

▪ *It's something to think about as we light the Chanukah candles.*

Today, the mighty Roman Empire is gone.

And the Jews are back in Israel.

A number of years ago, someone wrote some graffiti on the Arch of Titus.

... Three Hebrew words. That say it all:

"Am Yisrael Chai".

The Jewish People live.

A MYSTICAL LOOK

There was only one day's worth of oil. And it burned for eight. The miracle of Chanukah.

The Jewish mystics point out a problem with the story.

... Not how could G-d make the miracle. After all, He's G-d. He created the world. No problem.

... But why would G-d make the miracle.

The splitting of the sea? That one makes sense. We needed it. To survive.

... *But why the miracle of the oil?*

Sure it would be nice to be able to light the Menorah. But it wasn't life threatening.

What's the point of that kind of miracle?

... The answer is, that's exactly the point!

It was a miracle that wasn't critical.

... *And G-d did it anyway.*

Why? Because He loves us. Cares about us. And wants us to have a relationship with Him.

... Chanukah is a time to celebrate our relationship with G-d.

To remember that He loves us.

And that we love Him.



Shabbat Shalom and have a great week.

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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