

The Eight Candles of Hanukkah
Adapted from Chosen People Ministries Newsletter

1. The Servant Candle.

A. "...but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant." Matthew 20:26.

B. It is in keeping with the teachings of the Messiah, that the ninth candle -- the Shamash -- should be lit first, with a match, and then used to light all the others. Yeshua (Jesus) repeatedly told His disciples He had come as a servant, and even in the last hours of His life, He took the role of servant to minister to these, His friends and followers (John 13:1-5). He thus fulfilled the prophecies of the Tanakh (Old Testament) (Isaiah 53) and set an example for us that we should follow (John 13:14).

C. Let us commit ourselves, during these holy days, to a new spirit of selfless service ... sharing the light of salvation with each life we touch.

2. The First Candle.

A. The One True G-d. "Hear, O Israel; The L-rd our G-d, the L-rd is one!" Deuteronomy 6:4-5.

B. The Shema ("hear") is the most important Scripture in the Tanakh -- the proclamation of the unique Person of G-d. Because He is the only G-d, He wants, requires and deserves the first place in every area of our lives. The singular character and single redemptive purpose of the Holy G-d should bring us to worship Him in all that we do, and to commit our lives to Him.

C. As you pray tonight, praise G-d for His unique character and commit yourself anew to give Him your first attention and fullest devotion.

3. The Second Candle.

A. Unity. "...that they may be one just as We are one...." John 17:20-26.

B. Yeshua's great prayer in the Garden on the eve of His death was an aching cry of His heart for the unity of G-d and man. The bringing together of a holy G-d and sinful mankind was the redemptive purpose for which the Messiah came ... and for which He died. It is the purpose for which we, too, live and die ... that the Messiah might use us to awaken a lost world -- and especially His chosen people -- to their need to be reconciled with G-d.

C. As you pray tonight, praise G-d for uniting your spirit with Himself, and ask Him to use you to bring lost souls to Him.

