

CHANUKA: BACKGROUND

Chanuka: Main Miracle

The main miracle of Chanuka was in defeating the Greeks; the oil's burning for eight days was secondary.

Chanuka: Why Eight Days

Eight days were required for the people who had contact with dead people to become ritually pure in order to make new olive oil.

Chanuka: Why Asher Kidshanu

Chazal have the authority to make laws, so we say “Who sanctified us with His mitzvot and commanded us” (asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu) for Chanuka blessings and other purposes that Chazal instituted after the Torah was given.