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.

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