

# יְמֵי חֲנֻכָּה הֵם יְמֵי הוֹדָאָה, כְּמוֹ שְׂפָתוֹב

## The Days of Chanukah Are Days of Thanksgiving

### THE TEACHING

The days of Chanukah are days of thanksgiving (הוֹדָאָה), and thanks is the delight of the World to Come (שְׁעֵשׂוּעַ): to thank Hashem is to know Him, and the more we know Him, the closer we are. In the future “all offerings will cease except the thanksgiving offering,” “כָּל הַקִּרְבָּנוֹת בָּטְלִין, חוּץ מִקִּרְבַּן תּוֹדָה”

That delight is found in halachos (הִלְכוֹת): “כָּל הַשּׁוֹנֶה הִלְכוֹת בְּכָל יוֹם, מִבְּטָח לוֹ שֶׁהוּא בֶּן הָעוֹלָם הַבָּא” (נדה עג). Thanks and halachos reveal truth (אֱמֶת), truth completes speech (דְּבוּר), and complete speech, the holy tongue, draws the joy of Shabbos into the week.

### MAIN POINTS

- In trouble the blood rushes to the heart, which pounds under the pressure. When salvation comes, the blood walks in order again. הִלְכָּה is walking, so the thanks we bring on leaving trouble is called halachah.
- Supporting Torah scholars feels like a loss, but through it halachos are born and that kindness (חֶסֶד) fills the lack: “הָרִיעוּ לֵהי כָּל הָאָרֶץ” (תהלים קא) has the first letters of הִלְכָּה. King Asa took scholars from their learning, and “אָסָא חָלָה אֶת רַגְלָיו”: halachos are the strength of the feet.
- Speech has four parts: “לֹא אִישׁ דְּבָרִים אֶנְכִּי גַם מִתְמוּל גַּם מִשְׁלִשׁוֹם גַּם מֵאֲזֵ דְבָרָה” (שמות ד:). Truth shines into them through three Names: ל-ק is prayer, אֱלֹהִים is Torah, and ה' is matches, “וַיְהִי אִשָּׁה מְשַׁכֶּלֶת” (משלי יט:ד).
- Complete speech is the holy tongue (לְשׁוֹן הַקֹּדֶשׁ), bound to Shabbos: “שְׁלֹא יִהְיֶה דְבוּרָה שֶׁל שַׁבָּת כְּדְבוּרָה שֶׁל חֹל” (משלי יט:ד). Through it Shabbos, the son at ease with his father, lifts the weekdays, the servant, out of sadness.
- Shabbos, “מִתְנַה טוֹכָה יֵשׁ לִי בְּבֵית גִּנְזִי וְשַׁבָּת שְׁמָה” (שבת י:), reveals Hashem's simple Oneness (אֶחָדוּת הַפְּשׁוּט) behind six days of changing creation. So “הִלְכָּה כְּרַבִּים”: many minds agreeing as one. At the oven of Achnai Hashem said “נִצָּחוֹנִי בָנִי”, “My sons have defeated Me.”
- Chanukah's oil is the light of truth, “שֶׁלַח אוֹרָה וְאֶמֶתָה” (תהלים מג:), set by the doorway, the opening of the mouth: “פִּתַּח דְּבָרֶיךָ יֵאִיר” (תהלים קיט:קל). And חֲנֻכָּה is כ"ה, “they rested on the 25th”, a taste of Shabbos in the week.

### A PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY · OUR OWN REFLECTION

*Thank Hashem out loud. Learn one halachah a day. Let your words be true.*

**In the full shiur:** 1. Days of Thanks, and the Delight of the World to Come · 2. Truth Lights Up Speech · 3. Lashon HaKodesh, Shabbos, and Simple Oneness · 4. The Oven of Achnai, and the Chanukah Lights · 5. Two Full Years, the Lungs, and the Song of Thanks

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