Chanukah Candle Blessings

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has sanctified us with the *mitsvot* and commanded us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who made miracles for our ancestors in those days at this season.

*On the first night of Chanukah:*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has given us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this day.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha’olam asher kid’shanu b’mitsvotav v’tsivanu l’hadlik ner shel Chanukah. Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha’olam she’asah nisim la’avoteinu ulimoteinu bayamim hahem bazman hazeh.

We light these lights on account of the miracles, wonders, victories, and consolations that You enabled for our ancestors in those days and at this season, by means of your holy priests. And all eight days of Chanukah these lights will be holy, and we shall only use them as a reminder for us to thank and praise your great name for your miracles, wonders, and redemption.
I have a candle, a candle so light.
On Chanukah, my candle burns bright.
On Chanukah its light burns long.
On Chanukah I sing this song.

We have come to banish the darkness.
In our hands are light and fire.
Each person is a little light.
And all together, a mighty light.
Turn away, darkness, be gone, gloom!
Turn away, before the light.

Chanukkah Katch
(Cantor Stephen Richards)

Candles burning all night long
Chanukah, oy Chanukah

Judah, Judah Maccabee
Fought the Greeks to set us free

Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages, let our song
Praise your saving power;
You amid the raging foes
Were our shelt’ring tower.
Furious, they assailed us,
But your arm availed us,
And your word
Broke their sword
When our own strength failed us.

Ma’oz tsur yishu’ati l’cha na’eh l’shabei’ach.
Tikon beit t’filati v’sham todah n’zabei’ach.
L’et tachin matbei’ach mitsar ham’nabei’ach.
Az egmor b’shir mizmor chanukat hamizbei’ach.
Y’vanim nikb’tsu alai azai bimei hashmanim.
Ufartsu chomot migdalai v’timu kol hashmanim.
Uminotar kankanim na’aseh nes lashoshanim.
B’nei vina y’mei sh’monah kavu shir urnanim.
Who can retell the things that befell us?
Who can count them?
In every age a hero or sage came to our aid.
Sh’ma!
At this time of year in days of yore
Maccabees the Temple did restore,
And today our people, as we dreamed,
Will arise, unite, and be redeemed!

Menashe Ravina —

Mi y’malel g’vurot Yisra’el otan mi yimneh?
Hen b’chol dor yakum hagibor go’el ha’am.
Sh’ma!
Ba’yamim hahem bazman hazeh
Makabi moshi’a u’fodeh.
Uvyamenu kol am Yisra’el.
Yitached yakum l’higa’el.

We give thanks for the miracles, the liberation, the victories, the redemption, and the struggles that You have waged for our ancestors in those days at this season.

Al hanisim v’al hapurkan v’al hag’vurot
v’al hat’shu’ot v’al hamilchamot she’asita
la’avoteinu ulimoteinu
bayamim hahem bazman hazeh.

Not By Might
Not by might and not by power
But by spirit alone
Shall we all live in peace.

The children sing, the children dream
And their tears may fall but we’ll hear them call
And another song will rise
Another song will rise, another song will rise.

Not by might and not by power
But by spirit alone
Shall we all live in peace,
Not by might, not by power, Shalom.

(Debbie Friedman based on Zechariyah 4:6
Shabbat Chanukah Haftarah)
O Chanukah, O Chanukah
Come light the menorah
Let’s have a party, we’ll all dance the horah.
Gather around the table, we’ll give you a treat.
Dreidls to play with and latkes to eat.
And while we are playing,
The candles are burning low.
One for each night, They shed a sweet light,
to remind us of days long ago.

M. Rivesman

Oy khanike, oy khanike, a yontev a sheyner
A lustiker, a freylekher, nito nokh azeyner
Ale nakht in dreydl shpiln mir
Frishe heyse latkes esn mir,
Geshvinder, tsindt, kinder,
di khanike likhtelekh on
Zol yeder bazunder bazingen dem vunder un tantsn freylekh in kon.