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Week 7 October 6, 201

Write a one-page essay on the festival of Hanukkah. Explain its role in Jewish history. Is it a Christian observance? Explain why or why not.

### The Festival of Hanukkah

The Festival of Hanukkah is a Jewish Festival also known as the "Festival of Lights." It is an eight-day festival beginning on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev, Because the Jewish calendar is lunar (it uses the moon for its dates), Kislev may fall in November or December on our calendar. On each of the eight nights of Hanukkah, a candle is lit in the menorah. The center candle in the menorah is called the 'Shamash,' it is used to light the other candles. Before and after each candle is lit a special blessing of thanks is said and a special Jewish hymn is sung. The candles are lit from the left to right. The menorah is placed in the window of Jewish houses so people can see the light and remember the Hanukkah story.

When Antiochus IV, a Syrian king rose to power in the land of the Jews, he began to severely oppress the Jews. He slaughtered Jews; prohibits the practice of the Jewish religion; took the treasures out of the temple, and profanely defile the temple by sacrificing pigs on the altar. A Jewish priest named Mattathias led a small group of Jew in guerrilla warfare against the Syrian army.

In 162 BC, the Jews recaptured Jerusalem and removed all the pagan worshiping from the temple. They cleansed the Temple and re-dedicated it on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev to the Almighty God. When It was time to relight the Menorah only a small jar of pure oil bearing the seal from the priest could be found. Supernaturally, the small amount of oil burns for eight days. This serves as a miraculous memorial in the memory of the Jewish people.

The festival of Hanukkah is not a Christian observance. Christian celebrate December 25, as Christ birthday; but it is the birthday of the Greek god Zeus/Roman god Jupiter.

## Reference

JPC-DESIGN, W. /. (n.d.). Hanukkah - The Jewish Festival of Lights on whychristmas?com.

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