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

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

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