

# Chanukah Day 1—Publicizing the Miracle

## Talmud Tractate Shabbat

תנו רבנן מצות חנוכה נר איש וביתו

The Sages taught: The basic mitzva of Hanukkah is each day to have a light kindled by a person, the head of the household, for himself and his household.

תנו רבנן נר חנוכה מצוה להניחה על פתח ביתו מבחוץ

The Sages taught in a baraita: It is a mitzva to place the Hanukkah lamp at the entrance to one's house on the outside, so that all can see it.



In Jerusalem, this is still the custom; many of us in America place the Chanukah Menorah in our windows, facing the street.

The placement of the Chanukah Menorah on the outside of our homes is, among other symbols, a statement of the role and obligation of the Jewish people in the world.

**Membership in the Jewish people is not a declaration of superiority -  
it means acceptance of responsibility.**

## The Prophet Isaiah Ch. 42

ה' 5 כה-אמר האל יהוה, בורא השמים ונוטיהם, רקע הארץ, וצאצאיה... Thus saith God the LORD, He who created the heavens, and stretched them forth, He who spread forth the earth and everything that comes from it ...

ו' 6 אני יהוה קראתיך בצדק, ואחזק בידך; ואצרך, ואתנך לברית עם--לאור גוים. I the LORD have called you in righteousness, and have taken hold of your hand, and kept you and establish a covenant with you, so that you can be a light to the nations;

ז' 7 לפקח, עינים עורות; להוציא ממסגר אסיר, מבית כלא ישבי חשך. To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, and those that sit in darkness – taking them out of the prison.

**How is the modern-day state of Israel a living example of this value?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jgwppc0bAeQ>

<http://www.israaid.org/about>

