

Under Construction!

Joined To Hashem

Glossary of Terms

To help us understand our Hebraic Roots

Chanukah The Hebrew festival of rededication, also known as the festival of lights. An eight day festival beginning on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev. Also spelled Hanukah or Hanukkah.

Ketuvim The Biblical “Writings.” Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Nehemiah, 1 & 2 Chronicles.

Kohanim Priests. Singular kohen or cohen.

Menorah Seven-branched candlestick or lampstand as described in Genesis 25:31-40 and 37:17-24. The *kohanim* lit the menorah in the Tabernacle every evening and cleaned it out every morning, replacing the wicks and putting fresh olive oil into the cups. A chanukiah is a 9-branched candlestick, adopted in

Mezuzah A traditional, decorative container holding Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 11:13-21, and affixed to the doorpost, in accordance with Deuteronomy 6:9. Serves as a reminder of Deuteronomy 6:4-7 upon entering the home. Helps ensure that when a person enters his house, or a room in the house, and sees the mezuzah, he is thereby reminded how he should act there. Likewise, when a person leaves the house, the mezuzah reminds him of the high level of behavior he is expected to maintain wherever he goes.

Neviim Biblical writings of the prophets. Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Daniel.

Shofar A hollowed out ram’s horn, blown in celebration or as a signal. See Leviticus 25:9, Joshua 6:5, 1 Samuel 13:3, Psalms 47:5 and Jeremiah 4:5. Often translated trumpet. Complementary to the silver trumpet of Numbers 10:2.

Tallit Prayer Shawl. A rectangular shawl worn during prayer, in the synagogue, usually made of white wool, cotton, or silk, and often has blue or black stripes on the ends and an ornamental strip worn near the neck. Tied into the white garment is a white and blue fringe (*tzitzit*), worn in fulfillment of the biblical commandment (Numbers 15:37-41). Serves as a personal sanctuary.

Tanach A Hebrew word formed by the acronym for Torah, Neviim and Ketuvim. Commonly called the Old Testament.

Torah Literally, teaching. The five books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and

Deuteronomy. Also called the Pentateuch or Chumash. Often erroneously called the Law.

Tzitzit Fringes tied into the four corners of a tallit, according to Numbers 15:37-41.

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