



YUD-TEK KISLEV, THANKSGIVING, AND CHANUKAH Farbrengen, 19 Kislev, 5747-1986

There is a common theme between Yud-Tes Kislev and Chanukah, and how they impact the entire world.

The Alter Rebbe details in his letter the specifics of his liberation on Yud-Tes Kislev – how it reached and was approved by the gentile officials, and it is clear from his account that it was with the Czar's knowledge.

Moreover, it was by the Czar's own command; for at that time, every trivial matter, and surely a matter such as this, required not only his permission, but the direct decree and order of the Czar of what was then the most powerful country in the world.

Similarly on Chanukah, the Jewish people overcame the Greek empire, as it is called, the 'Wicked Greek Empire'; a title that is used specifically regarding that empire.

Obviously, when a nation is just the opposite of that, when its actions are positive – and "action is the main thing" – such as in this country, where we see the Jewish people spreading the light of Torah and Mitzvot – and surely, the country is the opposite of "heretical." It must be emphasized again and again, that the foundation of this country is faith in G-d; and not just that G-d exists, but in G-d as Creator and Director of the world.

Contrary to those who say that they believe in G-d, but that He is removed, not involved in life's details.

The foundation of this nation was laid by the Founding Fathers, who, after coming to this country proclaimed a holiday of Thanksgiving to G-d, Creator and Director the world, for having saved them and bringing them to a secure land where they could live free of oppression and decrees – to live as they see fit, beginning from practicing their faith in G-d as Creator and Director the world, in their own times, in their own lives, and their own rescues.

They even established it as a law 39a that every year on that day it must be remembered again, to thank G-d from the depths of our hearts, for having shown them His kindness openly.

It has been established even for non-believers – who in their hearts believe, as well, but for whatever reason, boast that they do not believe, or they believe that G-d is far away, somewhere in the Seventh Heaven... But even they know that when a matter affects them seriously, they pray to the Superbeing, to G-d, for help.

And certainly they participate in the Thanksgiving celebration for the founding of this nation by the first gentiles who arrived here.



פרשת זישב

As we have mentioned previously, although there were Jews among them, the majority, who established Thanksgiving, were non-Jews.

This faith has been celebrated from generation to generation, including our own generation.

And specifically in our times, in recent years, and specifically at the seat of government of the President – a man of flesh-and-blood, whom G-d has given a mission, for “the hearts of rulers are in the hand of G-d,” to direct this country.

He issued a proclamation about the Seven Noahide Laws, and announced about the Menorah specifically, which is linked to Chanukah.

He proclaimed this clearly and openly to all.

He should continue to do so, with added strength, and with greater publicity. And this will surely help him with his other concerns as well, and with his personal health.

In good health, may he continue to add in spreading goodness, righteousness, and morality.

Beginning with announcing openly that wherever a Jew wishes to erect a Menorah to connect it and light it, adding light night after night, all eight nights at their proper time, – that they should be helped.

Moreover, lighting a Menorah publicly is precisely in the spirit of the Founders, who began their life in this country by thanking G-d.

And this is also the true reason for lighting the Menorah, to thank G-d for saving the righteous from the hands of the wicked.

This is the foundation of this country, to save the righteous from the hands of the evil; even though the wicked may be physically stronger, and the righteous physically weaker.

This will effect the entire country and from here, other countries, as well.

This will hasten, in the words of Maimonides, that very speedily, “I will call all the nations to serve G-d as one;” “G-d will rule,” – In G-d we Trust.

May it be speedily in our days! L'chaim!

